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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

CNMI braces for worker shortage

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Human resources, especially of upcoming developers, in the Commonwealth have in front of them challenges in filling up their positions in the coming years.

» Labor force can't keep up with flurry of developments

Among those that are in the forefront is Kensington Hotel Saipan, which is set to open around June of this year.

According to Ginger Choi, human resources director of E-Land Group's Micronesia Resort Inc., they need about 334 employees for 100 different positions as they open for operations.

Recently, Kensington held a two-day job fair to seek possible employees that are already on island.

Choi said they received 380 applications from U.S. and non-U.S. citizen nationals on island but only about 180 passed for second interviews.

To fill the positions, Choi said they will be looking at foreign countries depending on the final results of their hiring process on Saipan.

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Best Sunshine International, Ltd., which is set to open the Grand Mariana Resort and Casino on this location later this year, is among the developers in the CNMI who will need thousands of workers to operate their upcoming projects.

Hart leaves as NMC president

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Sharon Hart will no longer be serving as the president of the Northern Marianas College as she has taken a leave of absence until her contract expires.

» Attao appointed acting president

The leave of absence was effective starting yesterday through the end of Hart's contract in June.

"I was able to finalize discussions with the Board of Regents and the board has agreed that I will be able to, effective immediately, be on a leave so that way I can look at pursuing my future endeavors, spend time with my family," Hart said in a conference with department heads and the media yesterday.

"In all fairness to the institution I can't be gone so much and focusing on me right now. It's not fair for the college," she added, saying that she appreciated the board "standing by

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart has filed a leave of absence until her contract expires in June. Dave Attao, dean of Administration and Resource Development, was appointed as acting president by the Board of Regents.

CW figures readied ahead of DC talks

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, ahead of a series of meetings with federal counterparts in Washington, D.C. this month, is at work on a white paper of sorts to project a concrete number of contract workers needed in the CNMI, as the federal government continues its yearly cut down of the number of this foreign labor allowed in the CNMI ahead of the program's end in 2019.

Torres, in an interview at his Capitol Hill office yesterday, acknowledged that a request for a CW cap reflective of the true work pool needs of the CNMI—a worker pool that business leaders continue to stress and lobby as needed amidst current and ongoing economic development—would have to be formalized through legislation in U.S. Congress.

"This is the reason why—before we ask for any additional number—or any specific number, it is prudent that the government and the private sector work collaboratively to" find this out, Torres said. "Because the more we work together to address hiring our U.S. and local workers,

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INSIDE

LOCAL

On Feb. 11 and 12, high school students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan will go to court to participate in the 18th Annual CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition.

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LIFE & STYLE

Celebrating a decade of pageantry, Stellar Marianas decided to combine for the first time the two major pageants into one stunning show this July.

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Local

Perez elected as new CDA chair

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The board of directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority has a new chairman.

Ignacio Perez, one of the representatives from Tinian, was elected by the board during a meeting last Friday in Tinian.

Perez replaces Rota representative Diego Songao for the chairmanship. Songao now serves as the vice chair for the board.

Director Ignacio Kiyoshi told *Saipan Tribune* that the majority of the board wanted to change the chairmanship this year.

The CDA board, pursuant to their by-laws, decides every two years whether to retain or change their chairmanship.

Kiyoshi made the motion to nominate Perez to the position, who was eventually elected by the majority.

Songao, for his part, told *Saipan Tribune* that he has already notified the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. about the change of leadership in the CDA board.

In a letter to CUC chair Adelina Roberto, Songao noted Public Law 18-17, Article 3, Section 8131 which states that one member of the CUC board shall be the CDA board chair.

As new chair, Perez will now seat at the CUC Board of Directors.

"At this juncture, I would like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues, the CUC Board and the management and staff for the confidence and trust accorded to me during my tenure. My experience as a board member of CUC had given me a good insight of what our utility agency is all about; the hard work and tolerance that everybody has to endure in the performance of their work. I salute everyone for a job well done," Songao said.

Career criminal gets 6 months in jail for breaking appliances at home

Career criminal Nestor Camacho Taitano was slapped with a six-month prison term for breaking several appliances at their house in Dandan, prompting her mother to call police for fear.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman last week sentenced the 41-year-old Taitano to a total of one-year imprisonment for criminal mischief and six months imprisonment, all suspended except six months.

Taitano was given credit for four months and two days of time already served. It means that he shall be released from jail on March 16, 2016.

Wiseman noted that Taitano has a significant criminal history and that he previously rejected a plea agreement, which he found to be too lenient.

Wiseman said the sentence here is twice of the previous proposed plea deal.

In issuing this sentence, Wiseman noted that Taitano expressed sincere remorse, has acknowledged his drug problems and is willing to seek help.

The judge said the incident is a misdemeanor and no one was injured or assaulted.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on supervised proba-

See CAREER on Page 4

OVER HIS CASINO LAW VETO

Torres downplays any riff in GOP leadership

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday downplayed any riff in Republican Party leadership over House Speaker Ralph Demapan's (R-Saipan) assertion this week that Torres' actions to line-item veto amendments to casino law last year were unconstitutional.

Torres

Torres, arriving on island yesterday in the wake of the veto dispute after a trip to Fiji, said he respects the legislative branch of government and Demapan as a speaker.

"That is his prerogative and constitutional right to override a governor's veto," Torres said, when asked if Demapan's cry of "unconstitutionality" over his vetoes jeopardized the Republican Party agenda, from Torres, at the Executive Branch, to the House leadership.

"Political party has nothing to do with it," he added. "And I respect that. That's the reason why he was here" in a sit-down meeting with Torres yesterday. "We are able to sit down and talk about leadership, And tomorrow… talk about politics," Torres added.

In a session Tuesday, House leaders asserted that Torres line-item vetoes to House Bill 19-95, were "unconstitutional," on the grounds that Torres mistook the bill as an appropriations bill. To their fellow lawmakers, House leaders laid out options to override the law, now Public Law 19-24, or pose the issue as certified question to the Supreme Court, among others.

"I have my attorneys that give me advice on how to approach certain bills, if not all the bills," Torres said, on this issue of unconstitutionality.

Torres added his door was open to discuss "what kind of bills are considered appropriation or not" and the courses of action.

If the House's contention also involves the vetoed provisions themselves, Torres suggested they introduce a bill that addressed their concerns.

"…But we line-item vetoed it for a reason," Torres also said.

Last December, Torres vetoed, among others, a casino law amendment to provide for a nonrefundable tax credit to the Saipan casino, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., which would have been applied to their gross revenue tax payout—an amount of $3 million deducted—if they first reached and paid out $20 million in BGRT tax. In essence, this would apply if the casino earned $400 million in any given year. Torres also vetoed a part of the bill that would require legislative approval of a revocation of the Saipan casino's exclusive license. The provision was disapproved as an "unconstitutional legislative veto," in conflict with the separation of powers doctrine.

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SHORTAGE

From Page 1

Choi said it was quite challenging for them to hire on island.

"I experienced that I offered them an interview and contacted them for a job offer, but many times they don't show up and many times they say it's too far or they have some kind of reason," Choi said.

Choi foresees that it will be very challenging for their company if they won't be able to have CW workers.

"The hotel, we are not targeting only English-speakers, not only local people. We are international and looking at multi-cultural guests. It would be good for us if we can hire some of them from overseas who has the language skills and different backgrounds, different cultures to provide better quality of service to our customers," Choi said.

Nevertheless, the company is preparing should the hiring of foreign workers no longer be an option by 2019.

As part of their strategy, Kensington said they are targeting the young generation and will be having close relationships with the Northern Marianas College as well as high schools to have training programs for students.

Aside from this, Choi said there is also a need for the government to reach out and educate the people to train their mindset.

"Sometimes when I interview, I feel like they don't have motivations to work. They are not hungry for the job," Choi said, "I think a kind of campaign or training from the government to keep reminding them why a job is important for their career lives for better living."

Kensington Hotel will be adding 313 rooms on Saipan.

Two more developers are set to open this year. Honest Profit International, which will be opening the Saipan Hotel Resort in San Antonio, will be adding in 300 rooms while Best Sunshine International, Ltd. will add 373 rooms with the opening of their phase 1 hotel, Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort in Garapan.

BSI senior vice president for operations Donald Browne earlier said that they will need about 1,500 to 2,000 more workers this year.

For construction alone, BSI needs about 2,000 workers for their project such as steel fixers, carpenters, free masons, welders, electricians, engineers, painters, architects, and interior designers among others, according to data from the CNMI Department of Labor.

Asked where they will get the workers, Browne said they will bring in workers from wherever they can and get as many locals. He added that they are working with the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in regards to training local people.

In the years ahead, more workers are projected to be needed by BSI for the phase two of their project that was said to be "at least 10 times bigger" than phase one. It will feature thousands of rooms in about 20 hotels, multiple casinos, the world's largest water park, and a kilometer-long shopping mall.

BSI has earlier expressed their interest to see the CW worker program be extended and said that they will be working with the business community to promote the extension.

For Tinian, about 5,000 employees will be needed for one project alone which is Alter City Group's Plumeria Resort to be built on their Puntan Diablo Cove property and will have about 6,000 rooms.

Not enough workers

"By last count, there are over 15,000 rooms advertised or in the pipeline to be built in the CNMI over the next 10 years," now Saipan Chamber of Commerce secretary Alex Sablan said in his recent address to fellow members in the business community.

Calculating employee needs via the 0.72 individuals per room human resource ratio for hotels, Sablan said the 15,000 rooms proposed will need 10,800 employees—not including those who will work in other amenities of a hotel or resort.

"This does not count the stated 3,500 employees to operate the casino and an additional 5,000 to operate the integrated resort and ancillary retail and F&B outlets that are proposed to come due to the tourism bubble the CNMI has derived in the last two years," Sablan said.

"Over 18,500 employees will be required just for hotel and casino development alone and I haven't even included Tinian's requirement for their proposed casino, golf course, integrated resource," he added.

Sablan said with a quota of 11,999 CW visas and roughly 1,600 remaining available, "It will be tough to realistically believe we can fill the remaining 15,000 estimated workforce with the Micronesians, Guamanians, and U.S. mainlanders."

"The CW visa worker and the valued human resources that contribute greatly to the success of the CNMI will undoubtedly be needed for the foreseeable future well beyond 2019. The fact of the matter is there are just not enough CNMI local or U.S. residents to meet the demand of our current and more importantly our future economy," Sablan said.

"We need a foreign national worker here year round for the foreseeable future. We need to measure this. The government, CNMI and federal, need to collaborate to come up with a position paper or a report that establishes what our needs are," he added in an interview.

Transitioning and right-sizing developments

CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero has also said prior that there is not enough workers on island for the upcoming developments.

"The reality is we will never have sufficient workers to populate the pipeline. Especially those that are considered the higher-end jobs," DeLeon Guerrero said, "There's insufficient [workers] to populate the pipeline that's reality."

Like Sablan, who called for transitioning of some qualified workers from CW to H-visas, DeLeon Guerrero believes that employers should look into getting H-visas for their employees.

"We really need do start looking at taking advantage of the exemption that we have right now for the H-visa application," DeLeon Guerrero said.

Currently, the CNMI is not included in the national H-visa cap.

While the government and stakeholders are working on a case to present numbers for the 902 talks and to show U.S. Congress the workforce needs of the Commonwealth, Sablan said there is also a need to prove that the CNMI is doing its best to transition.

"It is harder, it is more expensive, but really, what you're supposed to be going after is a U.S. citizen. If you can't do that, then, like everyone else in the United States, you have to go for an H-visa," Sablan said.

"USCIS and the local government should start denying skilled labor positions that can avail for H-visa, they must go to the H-visa," he added.

Sablan also reiterated the need to right-size the developments that are on island.

"We need to sit down and talk about this stuff, come to an agreement that we have limitations with labor, limitations with the people that are coming in, should we be having 2 million visitors a year, is it realistic, if its achievable, should we even do it?" Sablan said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) echoed Sablan's sentiment saying that the Commonwealth needs to look into the developments that are being projected right now.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CW

From Page 1

the better we are to request the specific number.

"I don't want to request a specific number until we have date to support that specific number," Torres said, when asked.

In essence, this CW number must also reflect "what kind of U.S. and local labor are we able to provide in a yearly basis?" Torres said.

Torres said this does not mean every single eligible body on the ground but the eligible that "have the ability or potential to get a job."

"I want [federal agencies] to know that government and private sector is doing our best to meet the requirements that has been imposed on us," Torres said.

"I want them to know that we are doing our end to meet federal regulations and this is the reason why we are working with Congressman [Gregorio Kilili Sablan] as well as [Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs] Esther Kia'aina."

"Hire local, hire our community," Torres also stressed yesterday. "This will give us a better data as we get closer to 2019" and "alleviates our concerns and uncertainty" and "prepares not just the government but the private sector on the outcome of 2019 or the potential thereafter."

Torres officials this week, after meetings with the Department of Commerce, noted some hiccups in data collection they could face in working to get the number of local and U.S. labor available. For example, the Northern Marianas College could project some 2,000 graduates leaving their classrooms by 2019, officials said, but how many would be U.S. citizens, or what areas would they find gainful and consistent employment have been questions asked.

Also, through Freedom of Information Act data requests obtained by local Labor officials, federal agencies have disclosed "unknown" pools of workers in occupation breakdowns of the current CW workforce. In 2013, these numbers of "unknowns" were at 9,590 workers; in 2014, at 8,221, and in 2015, at 1,118, workers, *Saipan Tribune* learned—important numbers as the local government tries to filter out eligible contract workers eligible into higher-wage visa programs like the H-visa system.

HART

From Page 1

me during this time."

In a special meeting last Wednesday, the Board of Regents approved Hart's request for a leave of absence from the college.

"It is our priority to ensure that academic programs and student services continue as usual during this transition," chair Frank Rabauliman said in a statement, "To this end, I have asked David Attao to serve as acting president while the search for a new president is underway."

Attao is the college's dean of Administration and Resource Development. He oversees NMC's administrative services, the Community Development Institute, NMC-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the grants management function, and the NMC Bookstore. He also helps to lead NMC's workforce development initiatives as well as serve various community boards.

Attao received his Bachelor's Degree in Business from the University of Oregon, and has a Master's Degree in Education from Framingham State University.

"I want to thank Dr. Hart for her guidance and leadership these past years and us and this management team are going to continue the team effort moving forward," Attao said.

"I'm leaving this institution in very good hands," Hart said.

Hart said she believes it is the best time for her to step aside and leave on a high note.

"I think as an outgoing president that is the No. 1 thing that you want to feel, that the college is better than it was when I first came here. I, at least, feel that way," Hart said.

Looking back at some of the hardships and achievements that NMC had gone through, Hart noted the work they have done when the college was under show-cause status.

"Going from being a show-cause to being reaffirmed and with no team visits or reports due, and I think very importantly at the same time, to be working together as a team for the transition and within four months we had WASC (Western Association of Schools & Colleges) Senior here then to do a self-study to have us literally move under WASC Senior and then we received the letter in July of 2014 saying that we were successful and that we would be initially accredited under WASC Senior," Hart said.

"Even WASC said to us it's impossible to do all that fast but they didn't know NMC," she added.

Hart thanked the college community especially the students, which she has also earlier addressed.

"I am grateful and thankful to the NMC Board for entrusting the leadership of this wonderful college to me since July of 2011. Serving as your president has been the highlight of my career. Words cannot express how honored and appreciative I have felt serving as your CEO. It has truly been a remarkable experience and one I will forever cherish," Hart said.

"I truly, truly enjoyed my last close to five years here in this institution," she added.

CAREER

From Page 2

tion for one year. He was required to complete counseling or treatment at the Community Guidance Center.

Taitano is prohibited from going to his mother's house and work during the probationary period. He is not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages.

Taitano was ordered to pay a $100 fine, $25 court costs, plus probation fees.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Taitano, recommended the same sentence that Wiseman imposed. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

Clark said Taitano pleaded guilty because he loves his mother, he regrets what he did to scare her and damage her property.

Clark said the evidence against Taitano suggests that he damaged and generally tore apart his mother's residence.

"This is criminal behavior and deserves punishment. However, no one was hurt," said Clark, adding that the house was not burglarized and the items damaged were small and low in value.

He said the damage done was the result of an angry outburst.

Clark said it is also clear that Taitano is the victim of some drug dependency and mental health issues.

Taitano pleaded guilty to criminal mischief and disturbing the peace.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Sept. 14, 2015, Taitano broke various appliances, household items and damaged a window screen belonging to his mother.

This caused the mother to leave her house and call the police because she was afraid.

The mother told police that his son turns violent whenever under the influence of illegal drugs.

Taitano would scream at night or come home early morning and talk to himself. She is scared to stay at her house believing that he might hurt her or even kill her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Police to continue probe into unsolved homicides and missing persons

Newly sworn-in Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said police officers will continue to pursue investigations into the unsolved homicides and cases of missing persons.

In an interview, Guerrero said officers are continuously looking into the unsolved homicides.

The commissioner said police officers likewise will not stop investigating cases of missing persons on Saipan as well as other unsolved crimes.

Guerrero did not elaborate on DPS' operations.

On Nov. 3, 2014, over 150 Chinese farmers and owners of various businesses came out in a long vehicule convoy to express their anger and frustration over three cases of double homicides and other unsolved murders involving Chinese nationals on Saipan.

Two other unsolved murders last year also involved locals.

James Patrick Deleon Guerrero, a security guard, was fatally shot by a masked man during an attempted robbery at Royal Poker in Afetnas, just a day after police discovered that Ana Maria Limes was killed in her house in Oleai.

The killer of Deleon Guerrero has yet to be identified.

Sylvester Rogopes Sablan, the husband of Limes tagged as the person of interest in Limes' murder, has yet to be charged in this case.

On missing person cases, this May marks the fifth year of the mysterious disappearance of Faloma and Maleina Luhk near a public school bus pavilion in As Teo.

In June 2014, Japanese sisters Natsuki and Chinatsu Yamada disappeared. Their rental car was found abandoned at Wing Beach in Marpi.

Among other missing persons is Mei Hua Zhao, a 25-year-old scuba diver instructor who was reported missing since October 2015.

On illegal drugs, Guerrero said his predecessor, James C. Deleon Guerrero, declared a war on "ice" and that under declaration is still on under his administration.

"We will continue to work with other agencies in combating drugs most importantly the "ice" issue," he said.

The commissioner said they will work collaboratively with the war on "ice" task force that was formed by Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres.

"All law enforcement agencies will work together to battle this," he said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Dandan Middle School lauds NJSDA winners

Dandan Middle School gives big kudos to its students for their success in the National Junior Speech and Debate competition held right at DMS itself last Jan. 23. This had been Round 3 for the NJSDA in preparation for a much-awaited tilt this February.

"The students are devoted... They are getting in gear for a long, energy-challenging Regional competition. Ms. Elaine Cabrera our co-coach and our principal Lynn Mendiola are very dedicated to the success of the students," coach and DMS registrar said Kristene Wolf.

Also from Dandan Middle School, 6th grade student Jonathan Wolf, is expected to leave for Texas next week, to compete in the International Junior Thespian Society, National Competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coach Elaine Cabrera, far left, and principal Lynn Mendiola, far right, flank Dandan Middle School participants to last Jan. 23's National Junior Speech and Debate competition at DMS.

Poetry Reading:
1st Place, Cindy Wu

Declamation:
1st place, Jonathan Wolf

Humorous Interpretation:
1st place, Jonathan Wolf

Prose Reading:
1st place, Jonathan Wolf

Carolinian Prose Reading:
1st Place, Bina Mary Reyes

Impromptu Speaking:
1st Place, Holly Liban
2nd Place, Rio Ayu Shadow

Dramatic Interpretation:
2nd Place, Holly Liban

Story Telling:
2nd Place, Grace Zhang
3rd Place, Bina Mary Reyes
4th Place, Joseph Zhang

Duo Interpretation:
2nd Place, Holly Siu & Grace Zhang
4th Place, Joanna Mae Caguioa & Rio Ayu Shadow

Original Oratory:
5th Place, Rio Ayu Shadow ***(PR)***

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CUC: Temporary power interruption for CK, Susupe

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in sections of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe will experience a temporary power interruption this weekend as linemen strengthen a portion of the transmission and distribution infrastructure along the Kiya 4 feeder.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, CUC will temporarily interrupt power at 8:30am to Jesus St., Delgadina St., Jacinto Ave., Luis St., Lucia St., Enrique St. Pedro Ln., Olympio Ave., Dionicio Ave., Dolores St., Monica St., Elphidia St., Francisco St., Chalan Kanoa Dr., Carmen Av., Barbara Av., Bernardo St., Brigida St., Sister Remedios School, Mt. Carmel School, Mt. Carmel Cathedral, and the MSV Bldg. 1 in Chalan Kanoa while linemen relocate a primary power pole on Enrique St.

At the same time, CUC will temporarily interrupt power to Tekken St., Nauru Lp., Pisao Pl., Nasa Pl., Chalan Hagoi, Lulai Way, Chinchulu Ave., Tramoha Ave., Pachinko Ave., Tokcha Ave., Talaya Ave., Traba Pl., Texas Rd., Kotdet Pl. and Saipan Community Church in Susupe while linemen install a power pole near Tasi Homes.

Work on the projects will be completed by 2:30pm, at which time power will be restored to the affected areas. For more information, please contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water, and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

Judges needed for Thespian Society tilt

There is an International Thespian Society competition is this Saturday, Feb. 6, at the Northern Marianas International School in the 360 Building in Susupe. We are inviting volunteers to judge this event for our students. Judge reporting time is 1:30pm.

The students range from grade 9 to 12 performing Monologues, Duet Acting, Solo Musical Theatre, and Group Musical Theatre.

Students also demonstrate their Technical Theatre talents in Costume Design, Set Design, Theatre Marketing and Short Film.

We need judges for these events. If you feel you can lend your talents to help evaluate their talents, and encourage the island youth, please contact Hal Easton thespians@hotmail.com and he will send the judging rubrics in advance. ***(PR)***

MHS senior Alam has sports to ease pressure

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School senior Masrur Alam has become great in managing his time. He's been preparing for two highly competitive U.S. national finals as part of the CNMI MathCourt team and the MHS Aeronautical Dolphins in the Real World Design Challenge.

And the 17-year-old has turned to sports to ease the pressure of these two academic challenges, rooting for Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50 and still cheering for his NBA team the New York Knicks.

"Sports is fun. I follow the NFL and will be cheering for Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers. They deserve to win Super Bowl 50, it's Cam's time," said Alam, who is sticking with the Knicks despite the team a bit behind in the Eastern Conference.

It is also a good thing that being a high school senior, he has fewer classes giving him more time to spend in practicing for the MathCourt and help the Aeronautical Dolphins prepare for the RWDC finals.

Alam was the second best in the in the CNMI MathCourt's individual competition where he finished second to Agape Christian School's Bei Bei Chen. He then joined Marianas Baptist Academy 12th grader Delaney Kyle Chua in winning the team event (Team International) as their partnership bested Saipan International School's two squads (SIS II: Jun Young Chung, Jaehoon Jang and Daniel Lim; and SIS I: Myung Jae Cho, Donggu Hyon and Dong Hee Im).

Alam

"I've been joining MathCourt since the second grade. It's challenging every year but I always came more prepared so I could have a better performance," said Alam, who practices on his own by using and solving problems the old fashion way.

"I always look for problems on textbooks and at the same time review the past problems. For me, it is a year-long preparation for every competition."

He and Chen will lead Team CNMI to the MathCourt National Finals on May 13 at the Brookside Charter School in Kansas City, Missouri. ACS' Claire Song and Allan Zhao, and SIS' Cho and Jang are the other members of the team.

But before going to Kansas, Alam and six of his schoolmates will be representing the Pacific States in the RWDC finals in Washington, D.C. from April 21 to 23. He is the five-time Pacific State champion Aeronautical Dolphins' project mathematician.

Project manager Ann Margaret Norcio, marketing specialist Edna Nisola, simulations engineer Jun Young Kim, mission planner Matthew Cao, aircraft design engineer Robert Malate, and systems planner Daniel Villarmero are the other members of the Aeronautical Dolphins coached by John Raulerson.

These competitions would just be a warm up for Alam, whose GPA is 4.25, as he got is set to enter the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology after his graduation. He is just waiting for an email from MIT. "I can't wait to go to MIT. I find science and biology interesting that's why I'm majoring in biomechanical engineering."

'Happy, healthy pets looking for homes'

The Saipan Cares for Animals said they have spayed, neutered, and vaccinated all the dogs and cats up for adoption this weekend at the animal shelter in Lower Base.

SCA in cooperation with the Saipan Mayor's Office, under Mayor David M. Apatang, will be holding the Free Adoption Weekend on Feb. 6 and 7. The shelter will be open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and 12noon to 4pm on Sunday.

A total of 55 dogs are up for adoption and SCA will be paying the $20 adoption fee for each dog. New dog owners will only pay the licensing and registration fees of $6 per year.

"Why are we doing this? We have 40 kennels available at the shelter and we are currently over-capacity. We simply have no more room to house any animals and we want to get them into good homes," said SCA president Jason Hudy.

Guam veterinarians Dr. Jennifer Landis and technician Bambi Leone had been assisting local animal volunteers and staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Control Office with the spay and neuter program.

"So any animal adopted this weekend will not have any unwanted pregnancies and will be protected to the best of our ability from diseases," said SCA healthcare assistant Jordina Walker.

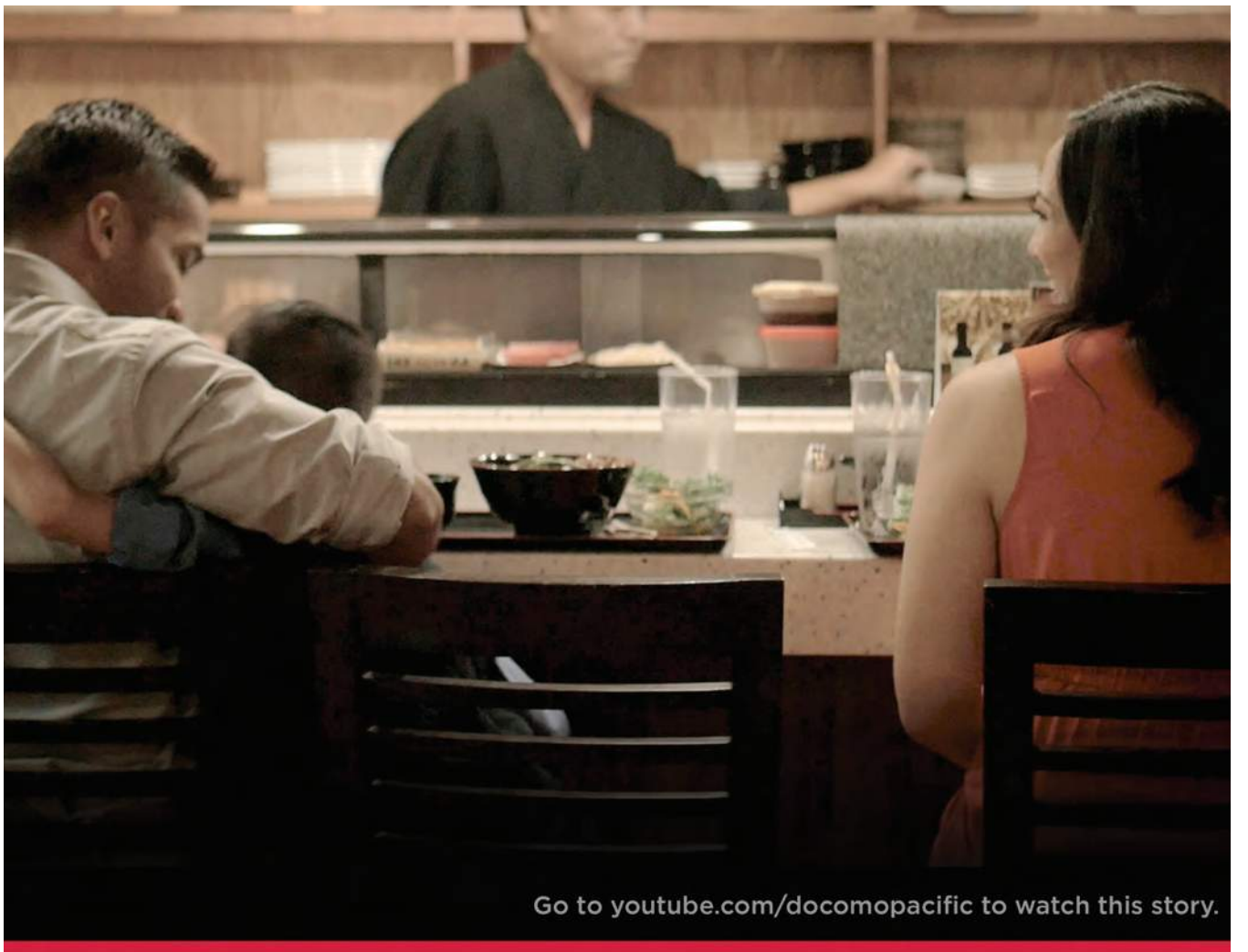
Nicole Essa, another SCA volunteer, added that they are not supporting plans to turn the dogs to guard dogs that are tied up in chains outside the house.

"It should be noted that we are adopting out pets, not guard dogs. Our dogs (and cats) have been socialized and are friendly, looking for love and attention. Dogs are social animals and are meant to be included as part of your family," said Essa.

"Besides, if a dog is chained up it really does no good to 'protecting' your house anyways if it can't get off its chain. The best way for dogs to protect a house is to be inside of the house," she added.

Pictures and breeds of pets (dogs and cats) that are up for adoption can be seen on the SCA Facebook page or at www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com. Animals cannot be reserved and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. ***(Jon Perez)***

JON PEREZ
Some of the dogs that have been spayed and neutered are ready for adoption this weekend. The Saipan Mayor's Office and the Saipan Cares for Animals have teamed up for this weekend's mass adoption.



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Man gets 3 years in jail for burglarizing govt office

The man accused of burglarizing the Domestic Violence Intervention Office on Capital Hill was slapped with a three-year prison term after entering a guilty plea.

Franklin C. Crisostomo, 35, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty last week to the offense of burglary.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman accepted Crisostomo's guilty plea and sentenced him to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for three years.

Crisostomo was given credit for four months and one day already served. It means that he shall be released from prison on Sept. 26, 2018.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on supervised probation for five years. He was ordered to pay $380 in restitution to the Domestic Violence Intervention Center, $100 fine, $100 assessment fee, plus probation fee.

Crisostomo was required to perform 200 hours of community work service, submit to alcohol and drug testing, complete any recommended counseling by the Community Guidance Center, write a letter of apology to the victim, and stay away from the victim.

According to the plea agreement, on Sept. 15, 2015, Crisostomo burglarized the Domestic Violence Intervention Center with the purpose of committing theft.

Police said the defendant stole a Toshiba television, Acer desktop computer, Lenovo laptop with bag, several Family Violence plastic bags, and family violence task force bags.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represented the government in this case. Chief public defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Crisostomo. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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REtroSPECT expects fans to party with them

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Retro-pop group REtroSPECT is expecting Saturday to be one big party, ready to celebrate with local fans for a one-night only, reunion concert at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Part of the proceeds of the concert will be donated to ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata International Foundation, a nonprofit social welfare program that aims to protect abused and disadvantaged children.

Leader and producer J. Martin Castro, who is now based in Guam, said they are excited to once again perform in front of the Guam and Saipan crowd. Tonight will be their concert in Guam at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort in Tamuning.

Ticket sales in Guam and Saipan had been crazy. Fiesta Saipan general manager Abner Acosta added that ticket sales on Saipan had been good with only a few VIP and general admission tickets available. Tickets cost $30 for general admission and $50 for VIP.

"Big thanks to all our *kababayans* (countrymen) and to all the local residents. We're all excited to be with them," added Castro.

Fans will be treated to a fusion of retro and electronica dance party concert as they again deliver their original Filipino songs *Bakit Nga Ba?* (Why are we?), *Who Will?*, *Chika Doo*, *Getaway*, *Trilogy*, *It's Party Time*, and *If I Don't Love You*. They will also have their own rendition of classic hits by ABBA, Earth Wind & Fire, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Tina Turner, Boy George, and other '70s, '80s, and '90s cover songs.

Though the group is not yet planning a repeat performance of their benefit concert, Castro assured fans that they are working on a reunion album. Em-J now resides in Naples in Italy, Goldie now lives in Vancouver, while Ogie stays in Manila.

This will be REtroSPECT's second time to hold a show on Saipan after also performing in a sold out back-to-back concert with singer Geneva Cruz last June 11, 2011, as part of the celebration of Philippine Independence Day.

The American Federation of Musicians of the U.S. and Canada certified REtroSPECT as an internationally renowned retro pop group.

Defendant in first cyberstalking case enters plea deal with US govt

The defendant in the first cyberstalking case in the CNMI has entered a plea deal with the U.S. government, according to the prosecution yesterday.

Special assistant U.S. attorney Mohammad Khatib informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the U.S. government and defendant Brian Tebuteb Palacios have signed a plea agreement.

Khatib said in light of this plea deal, the U.S. government is requesting the court to set the matter for a change of plea hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 2pm.

Khatib said the U.S. government has conferred with Palacios' counsel, Steven P. Pixley, who concurs in this motion.

As of yesterday, the plea deal was sealed.

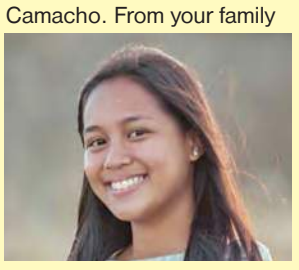
The court has ordered the continued detention of Palacios, who is facing an indictment charging him with a charge of cyberstalking.

According to the indictment, between April 19 and Sept. 15, 2015, Palacios used the Internet to harass and threaten the victim, placing that person and the spouse in fear of death and of serious bodily injury and causing emotional distress to the couple. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Froilan Camacho. From your family



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happiest of birthdays to our lovely Lea Reiann delaCruz Salalila, who turns 15 this Sunday. May God bless you now and always. Love Daddy, Mommy, Leo Ray, Lenelle, and LillySina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to Davizin Carmen Zareena Camacho Nekaifes! May your smile continue to brighten the world. God bless you baby girl. We love you very much! From Mom, Teisha, Jun, Grandma, and your brothers!"

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Live Lobster and Ribs Combo 1lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs with 1 Cup Toast Salad $70

STEAK
New York 12oz. $32
Steak Combo Mahi or Salmon 6oz Tender Loin with Soup $32
Rib Eye 14oz. with Corn Soup $35
Two Side Dishes of Choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of sauce: Sunshine/Bernaise/Demiglaze

RIBS
The Original Baby Back Ribs
Full Slab 10-12 bones $30
Baby Back Ribs 9-10 bones $28
Half Baby Back Ribs 6-7 bones $16
Full Slab Spare Ribs 10-12 bones $27
Half Slab Spare Ribs 5-6 bones $15
Two side dishes of choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of Sauce: Regular BBQ Sauce/Hickory Brown Sauce/ Smoky Sauce

BURGER
Cheese Burger $10
8oz. Patty with cut Cello Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles with Mushroom Sauce
Triple Cheese Burger $12
Monterey Jack Cheddar and Provolone
Sides:
One Side Dish of Choice: French Fries, Corn/Broccoli/Rice

COMBO MEAL

Beef Stroganof $12
Chamorro Sausage with Mushroom $10
Stir-Fried Tofu $8
Hot & Spicy Noodle Soup $10
Combo Set $12 Pizza ($11)
Steak/Flank $10
Cheese Burger $10
Chicken Tandoorie $10
Cordon Bleu $16

South Western Chicken $12
Beef Bulgogi $12
Fried Porkchop $10
Combo Seafood $12
Beef Salpecao $10
Calzoni $11
Hawaiian Pizza
Vegetarian Pizza 12"
Four Kind of Cheese Pizza

APPETIZERS

Chicken Wings $8
With Green Bedding Vegetable Choice of Sauce: Shriracha or Buffalo
Potato Skin $6
Cheese, Bacon and Green Onion
Gambas Al Ajillo $9
7pcs Shrimp with Chili Pepper
Breaded Calamari $9
Sunshine Nachos $9
Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Ground Beef, Sour Cream, Guacamole
Bruschetta $5
French Bread, Tomatoes, Basil Leaves
French Bread with Peas Pesto $5

SALADS

Toast Salad $8
With Tomato, Cucumber and Black Olive.
Dressing: Thousand Islands, Honey Mustard, French, Vinaigrette, Ranch
Caesar Salad $8
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Syria and its neighbors need peace talks to work

Most of the world has a stake in the success of the talks on Syria which have begun in Geneva, Switzerland, weak though their prospects for success may appear to be.

First of all has to be the importance of the matter for the Syrians themselves. An estimated 320,000 of them have died so far in the nearly five years of war. The country itself has been torn into fragments, nearly all of which are dominated by an armed group fueled by hatred of other Syrian groups. As many as 11 million Syrians have been displaced by the war, either internally or driven into exile outside of Syria.

It is truly difficult to imagine there ever existing again a unified Syria with an agreed-upon national government. The impact of all that has happened on the economy of the country has been a death sentence on any near-time return to a reasonable standard of living for the Syrian population.

In addition, the storm of the Syrian conflict has drawn into its vortex its neighbors and a number of great international powers. These include Russia, the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and France. For Iraq the war in Syria has also meant a strengthening of the cancer of the Islamic State in its region. One of the Islamic State strongholds is Raqqa, in Syria. Another is Mosul, in Iraq.

Syria is one of the major sources of the horrendous migration of refugees and asylum seekers into Western Europe, not only severely testing the humanitarian resources of its nations, but also putting the cat among the pigeons in European Union unity. Some countries, such as Germany, have shone brightly, but even its generous people have begun to turn on Chancellor Angela Merkel in her leadership on the issue of Syrian and other migrants.

Now the talks have begun, but with serious barriers remaining to resolution of the issues and ultimate peace. United Nations Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura has pointed to two. The first is the remaining issue of which Syrian opposition groups will participate in the talks. The second is the ambivalent role of international parties: They can play a modest positive role, or they can twist the arms of the Syrian parties too hard, permitting them to disown as imposed any results that are achieved.

These talks cannot be allowed to fail. The stakes are far too high.

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Taking a NAP

News that might be of interest: ST editor goes under the scalpel today in Pea Eye for a bypass surgery. I am lighting a candle to flicker on the mystery of the moment.

Saipan Tribune gave me a ticket for two to a seafood dinner at one of the resort hotel's restaurants. I brought a friend along who asked, "When was the last time you had a decent meal?" I must have acted overly eager. The place teemed with trim tourists. We were seated with locals, all exhibiting Micronesian girth.

At the NAP food stamps orientation in As Lito, a participant muttered to his wife, "Do we have to be here?" They might be reinstating their food stamp privileges received in Guam (my guess), finding themselves in dire need of assistance on Saipan.

Taking a nap is one of those valued activities at 70, relished and protected like a priced possession. I needed to attend an NAP orientation to qualify for food assistance, which I now need. Unlike my co-applicants, however, I was not reluctant to be there; I viewed the public service as what governments provide to tide over those who have difficulties getting by. It did not surprise me to hear the orienter elucidate on common violations as some allegedly viewed the program like a religious charity work for which they come with reverence and obeisance in the assent but freely violate the rules in the detail.

Well, it turned out to be a first-come, first-served basis; who came to register first, got the head call. Our host was a Micronesian who related to Filipinos enough to picked up phrases of the language, not a difficult thing to learn since his tongue also belonged to the IndoMalay AustroPolynesian family of languages with more than 40 percent Hispanic absorbed creole. We understood each other.

He tried to be funny, in a pedantic patriarchal way. He said that those in the audience were "privileged to receive the service"; he was willing to help in a helpful demeanor.

I did not see anyone carrying a U.S. passport so I might have been the only blatant citizen in the crowd (my guess). Most were from the Philippines, the Carolines, Micronesian nationals with many reinstating privilege, one with a very Islamic name, presumably, from South Asia. Many were pregnant, most reviving previous registrations. I certainly stood out in the crowd since I was the only one with a laptop, an Apple one at that!

I had to execute an Affidavit of Basic Needs so I stopped by a lawyer friend; I was not familiar with the format, and it thought it needed to be notarized. It did not, by my lawyer's opinion, which meant that I could have hacked the one-page affidavit myself but I appreciated the precision of the lawyer's language.

My appointment after my initial Monday visit was Wednesday with a specific time, and I thought that was quick until I got to NAP and discovered the same Monday crowd there ahead of me. It appears that the first-come, first-served principle applied still.

My appointment at NAP was at 8:30am, as everyone's else. An officer called me an hour later, which was a decent interval, save there was the question of notary seal on the affidavit (my lawyer friend was more casual), and a copy of my last bank statement, items not indicated in the list of documents I was to bring. Obviously, I was not the only one that needed a notary public as NAP employs its own to notarize signatures.

I bank online paperless so I printed my bank activity from the Internet. The NAP officer took one look at the balance, then handed me a piece of paper that indicated that I could pick up my food stamps Friday, today. Considering the bulk of documents folks lugged around, heard interviews that focused on the recipients not abusing the service, it helped that my assigned social worker read the newspaper and recognized my face. Also, they may rarely see a "professional" show up on their door. It was obvious that the religious audience including our Moslem approached the service like it was charity rather than a public service.

That I was caught helplessly NAP-ping, I concede. The experience was fine for it allowed me to see how we created an assistance system where folks grovel for what is their privilege and right. The Commonwealth might market its part as a privilege, but the federal law makes the food stamps a right for those in need.

We are an island whose governance comes from the "goodwill" of head honchos, the *Chamorri* vs. the *atcha'ot* and *manachang* of an earlier era. Pinas in the audience grovel as badly as the others, given the similarity of their history under Spain, Britain/Germany, Japan, and the U.S.

One of my Chinese students in Liaoning's SAU from south of Ningbo in Zhejiang said that she thought it was well I did not have to teach at one of the island schools so I can concentrate on promoting island tours merged to a language immersion program in my revitalized Earthbound Enterprises. True. And surviving meant taking a NAP.

We'll leave Jayvee to his reflective time.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

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The Sapporo files

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column usually runs every Friday. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The word of the day is "Sapporo." I've seen the name in various contexts for almost four decades, so I thought I'd ponder how this name and I keep crossing paths.

If you're good at geography, you'll recognize it as the name of a large Japanese city. That's as far as I got on the geographic angle, so I had to look up the rest. Here we go: Sapporo is Japan's fourth most populous city. It's a geographical outlier, since it's not on Japan's main island of Honshu, but is on an island north of Honshu called Hokkaido. Sapporo sits at 43 degrees north latitude and is about 700 miles north of Tokyo. It gets lots of snow and was the host of the 1972 Winter Olympics. It sounds like an interesting place. I'd like to visit in the wintertime.

Unfortunately, my travel budget isn't up for such an excursion. I can barely make it to the grocery store. But, hey, that's all right, because I can put on my ski-goggles and swoosh over to the instant noodle aisle, where the name "Sapporo Ichiban" can be seen.

Sapporo Ichiban noodles were one of many happy discoveries that Saipan unlocked for me. But if there's any relationship between the Sapporo Ichiban brand name and the actual city of Sapporo, well, that's one discovery that I've yet to make.

Instant noodles are an art form in Saipan. Everyone has their own style when preparing them. Even I do, and I can't even cook. I put in half of the packet of powdered flavoring, and then I put in a boiled egg (sliced), some ham, and some dried seaweed from those little packs that look like some dude used a steamroller to flatten the stuff.

As humble as my efforts are, they're considered culinary rocket science by my mainland pals. They grew up regarding instant noodles as the food of last resort for starving college students. Price was the key driver here. In fact, price was apparently the only driver. I'd occasionally see people buying big boxes of 18-cent instant noodle packs.

Still, overall, the starving-student-instant-noodles thing was probably more cliche than reality. Pizza and beer still held the most collegiate cachet.

Ah, beer. Well, here, again, we encounter the name "Sapporo." This brand is well-represented in the west Pacific, of course. It's also widely seen in the U.S. mainland, where it's bottled by a Sapporo-owned brewery in Wisconsin.

The historic origins of the company, are, indeed, in Sapporo, Japan. I've read that they even have a beer museum in Sapporo. Hey, that's just one more reason to book a trip to Sapporo someday.

Given all the gray hairs I've sprouted, I'm probably ready to be put in a museum myself. But first we'll blow the dust off the time line to mark the point where I first encountered the word "Sapporo." It was in 1978. That's when I saw a Plymouth Sapporo, a compact car that was sold and "badged" (branded) by an American company (Plymouth) but that was actually made and imported from a Japanese company (Mitsubishi).

The practice of selling re-badged foreign cars was common. The industry called these cars "captive imports." In fact I recall that by the mid-1970s all of the U.S. "big three" automakers had some captive models in their showrooms. I wasn't old enough to drive then, but I could press my snotty little nose up against the dealership windows. So, yes, I have indeed left my mark on the automotive industry.

As for the Plymouth Sapporo, I don't think it left much of a mark at all. Examples seemed pretty rare. But at various times, Mitsubishi did have other models rolling off its assembly lines and into the captive import market, including the Plymouth Arrow (which was very stylish and had cool TV ads) and the Dodge Colt.

Mitsubishi established a good reputation for quality during its captive import days. The company eventually established its own U.S. dealerships and thus became a stand-alone brand in the U.S.

As for the model named "Sapporo," I don't know if the car had any actual origins in the city itself.

Anyway, there you have it: From 1978 up through yesterday's trip to the grocery store, I've been crossing paths with the word "Sapporo" for a long time. I don't know if I'll ever lay eyes on the city itself, but, for now, I'll content myself with a can of good beer, and maybe an extra shred of stream-rollered seaweed in my dinner.

Must do internal evaluation

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The lack of clear understanding of salient issues is an appalling tale of ignorance that derails strengthening our democratic institutions in self-government. But we're still in the state of self-denial dazed at the colossal task of reviving a heavily depressed economy.

Issues are treated with defiance of basic documents, inconsequence, mediocrity, ignorance, negligence and arrogance as though the elected elite is exempt from fiduciary duties.

It's a humiliating display of sophomoric understanding of policymaking that raises questions of competency. This can't go on lest our democratic institutions would become the breeding ground for consistent corruption. While the governor is in Fiji perhaps he could consider how to present NMI issues on his Washington debut and should consider the following:

Tools for SG: Under the Covenant Agreement the NMI was given sufficient tools to build economic prosperity that included an initial seven-year guaranteed funding for basic infrastructure.

We were given Headnote 3-A privilege equivalent to a carte blanche free trade zone. Control of immigration was part of the deal including our exclusion from federal taxes or the IRS. The feds took care of defense and foreign affairs.

All these tools were equipped the NMI because the feds believe we could navigate our way to economic prosperity and self-government. We succeeded in the former in the mid-'80s. These are tools that aren't extended to Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

In recent past some of these tools were withdrawn or denied the NMI by the feds. Immigration was taken over because we abused it. It should have stayed in tandem with economic plans and development. We ignored our fiduciary responsibilities. Immigration control is history!

Wall Vs. Other Investments: We thought we had the so-called "magic" dust to shift wealth creation by pushing out Japanese investments. We literally killed the goose that lays the golden egg. When Nippon investment took an exodus they brought with it about $5-7 billion in money that once was recycled in the local economy. The closure of the $2.1-billion apparel industry followed.

As the fiscal imbalance or crisis pile-up did leadership do anything to rebuild loss of revenue? Weren't walls built to keep off Japanese and Korean investments? Wasn't this a conspiracy to ensure the NMI hits rock bottom abject poverty to rein-in the casino industry? Have you no respect for the voice of "we the people?" What's the true nature of Best Sunshine's so-called social responsibility?

Conspiracy: The NMI ignored ensuring that the retirement program retains solvency or the ability to stand on its own feet financially. Wasn't this part of the conspiracy to sink the livelihood of retirees so they too obediently follow the whims of the affluenza cabal with donor firm regarding casino? The silent agenda boggles the mind and it seems timed until the donor has its machine fully greased some five years from now. But then what happens to the future of retirees to which there's two-and-half years left before funds are completely depleted?

Loyalty Shift? Then there's the adolescent conspiracy to shift loyalty from the U.S. to China by seeking political status negotiations to revisit the relationship. Firstly, it's a mutual consent provision and if this issue is far removed from the level of your comprehension try reviewing the analysis of the agreement written in plain language. What have you found as egregious federal violations in our relationship or are you simply peddling political fiction? What are those concerns and did you convey them to our non-voting delegate in Washington?

Humiliation: Your sophomoric understanding of the agreement and constitution of the NMI and other statutes is humiliating! You open yourself as fodder for humor among high school students taking civics courses in high schools here. Your fiduciary anomalies are stunningly humiliating! No wonder the frosty relationship with the feds. When do we exit fantasyland?

Just to stir your nimble mind, I often wonder if bankruptcy is part and whole of your perception of self-government? I thought the constitution provided for a "balanced" budget so in turn the NMI avoids piling millions of dollars in deficit. That the NMI now boasts $510 million in deficit is a tale you've failed fiduciary duty! That you can't reverse revenue generation heading south is another egregious failure on your part to ensure a financially poised self-government.

Training: Now with the CW program ending in 2019 it is mandatory that the NMI accelerates training and upgrading the skills level of the local work force. I don't guarantee meeting complete replacement of CW workers (with H1-2 visas) but it should enable the NMI to meet labor needs at the halfway mark. Training is imperative between now and then. Have you lifted a finger on this score? Vacuous speeches are just that—vacuous!

Fiscal Imbalance: The mounting fiscal crisis at home didn't start with the superstorm or late processing of CW applications. FEMA was here immediately after the storm and spent more than $100 million to allow the NMI to rebuild ASAP. We are on our way to full physical recovery. But we are not on our way to full fiscal economic recovery! The missing equation is simple and has been parading under our nose, daily.

Lack of Plan: The NMI has gone about its desultory ways without a fully thought-out plan. It's all ad hoc basis (plan by eventualities) over "planning for" the future. As such Da Boys blindly embraced casino as the holy grail of revenue generation even against the decision of "we the people". But the NMI is bankrupt! Bankruptcy isn't self-government. It's fiduciary failure! Requirement for a "balanced" budget is constitutional!

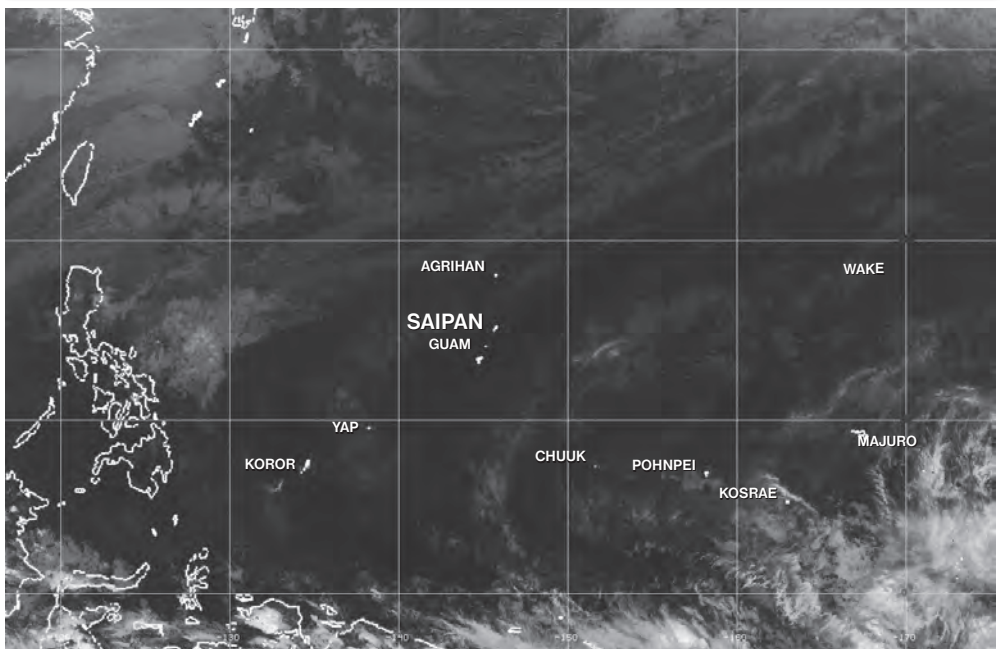
Washington Knows: Our bouts with corruption, failure to tax soft-count money in the casino, violation of immigration laws, affluenza, and inability to plan for our future are well known features in Washington. We would be excoriated into colossal embarrassment for ignoring simply fiduciary duties. Internal assessment to square our inadequacies is imperative!

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward through 25N156E to 21N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are along and up to 300 miles north of the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance near Yap and west of the Marianas is generating scattered light showers within 100 miles of a line from 7N141E to 12N138E to 16N142E to 18N147E. Another trade-wind disturbance is producing widely-scattered showers west of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 2N149E to 5N147E to 11N149E. Cloudiness and widely-scattered trade-wind showers are seen near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 6N153E to 6N158E to 3N164E. A trade-wind disturbance near the date line is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro and over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls south of a line from 6N180E to 6N171E to 3N166E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲76	▼69
Beijing	Sunny	▲41	▼19
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲63	▼51
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲70	▼46
Manila	Showers	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲84	▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼64
New York	Snow	▲45	▼32
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼36
Paris	Cloudy	▲52	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼26
Rome	Sunny	▲62	▼42
Salem	Showers	▲52	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼18
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼30

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
4:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:24 AM	3:07 PM
Saturday	4:17 AM	4:01 PM
Sunday	5:11 AM	4:59 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	5:57 PM
Tuesday	6:55 AM	6:57 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Mobil loyalty card members can use Smiles points for donations to ARC

Starting Feb 3, Mobil loyalty card members can use their Smiles points for their donations to the American Red Cross. Every 200 Smiles points will convert to a $5 contribution directly to the American Red Cross.

The option of allowing the people of Saipan to support the American Red Cross with their Smiles loyalty points adds to the convenience for those who would like to make a difference through their support.

John Hirsh from the American Red Cross NMI Chapter commented: "We are delighted to be partnering with Mobil in this initiative and we hope that loyal Mobil customers will take advantage of this option to support the important work that we do."

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. president Charles Ewart said: "Mobil continuously looks at how we can serve our customers and the community through what we do, and this added facility is an example of our efforts.

"Mobil hopes that the option of converting Smiles points to a charitable donation will provide our Smiles customers with more ways to share a smile and help communities in need.

"We are also glad for this new dimension to our partnership with the American Red Cross whom we've been supporting for many years."

Here's a snapshot of what happens to every dollar your gift will be used by the American Red Cross:

- $1; vaccinates one child against the deadly threat of measles
- $4.50; provides a snack and basic necessities such as facial tissues, razors and shaving cream to a resident affected by disaster
- $8; helps an emergency response vehicle deliver a day's worth of supplies to one person
- $10; keeps a person warm and comforted with the help of two Red Cross blankets
- $15; trains a volunteer disaster responder in your community
- $15; cares for an emergency responder with meals and snacks for a day

To donate, Smiles members simply need to visit a participating Mobil service station, inform the cashier to make an instant redemption and swipe their valid Smiles card. ***(PR)***

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School students focus intently while practicing in a courtroom at the Guma' Hustisia. Teacher Coach Chellette San Nicolas watches in the jury box, while at the far table Allison Arellano listens to a witness's testimony. From left to right, Steffany Calantog, Kaelani Dela Cruz, and Dionessis Valdisimo sit at the near table.

HS Mock Trial competition next week

On Feb. 11 and 12, high school students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan will go to court to participate in the 18th Annual CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition. Students will try a case before a mock judge and jury, reenacting the roles of attorneys, plaintiff, the defendant, and witnesses.

Each team will participate in four trials over the two-day period at the Guma' Hustisia. At the conclusion of the fourth round of trials, the top two teams will go head-to-head in a championship round scheduled for Feb. 12 at 3:30pm. The winner of that round will represent the CNMI at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Boise, Idaho in May.

The teams have been diligently working with their teacher and attorney coach volunteers since last fall. In addition to their training and practice sessions, the students attended the Mock Trial Academy held at the Guma Hustisia last December.

The competition affords students the opportunity to develop basic life and leadership skills, such as active listening, speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork, while increasing their knowledge of the judicial system and the law. In fact, past participants of the mock trial program have returned to the CNMI after college and are currently practicing attorneys, business leaders, and classroom teachers.

The competition, a joint effort of the Judiciary, CNMI Bar Association, and Public School System, receives additional financial support from the executive and legislative branches and various community donors.

For further information, contact Sheila N. Trianni, Mock Trial coordinator at 236-9891. ***(PR)***

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In welcoming the commencement of the Year of the Monkey at Club C from midnight February 7th, 2016
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OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
WiFi
www.facebook/clubcsaipan

Solid waste disposal is main concern of Beautify CNMI!

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Proper disposal of solid waste on the island—especially those left by Typhoon Soudelor—became the center of discussion of the first meeting of reviving the people-centered group Beautify CNMI!

The core group, which answered former representative Cinta Kaipat's invitation to attend the meeting, agreed that some of the problems that the community is facing right now is garbage left by those who spend weekends at the beach or trash dumped in random places by some people

Beer and soda cans, plastic bottles, disposable plates and utensils, cigarette butts, boxes, straws, burger wrappers, diapers, and other household thrash are the regular things collected during beach cleanups.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said the challenge right now is how to keep one area clean and some people don't have the money to get the services of a trash collection agency.

"As soon as you finished cleaning up one place, trash would appear in another. Either illegally burn it or throw it somewhere else," said Propst, who together with Rep. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) are thinking of possible laws that they could file at the Legislature.

"Funding is an issue when it comes to universal trash collection. The Mayor's Office could not do it since they are also underfunded," he added.

Sablan added that they would also look into increasing fines for those who will be caught littering and file more environmental bills. He authored House Bill 19-27, which aims to encourage the use of eco-friendly bags and to slowly eliminate the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

The CNMI also has the Commonwealth Litter Control Act or Public Law 6-37, signed by then governor Pedro P. Tenorio in 1989.

PL 6-37 imposes a $200 or not more than $500 fine for any person found to be littering and will be ordered to pick up trash under the supervision of the Department of Public Safety or any agency ordered by the CNMI Superior Court for a period of not exceeding eight hours.

It also listed that designated employees of the then Marianas Visitors Bureau (Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of (Lands and) Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Management Office, Department of Public Health and Environmental Services, Department of Public Works, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and DPS as apprehending officers.

However, Kaipat said, the anti littering law and litter control education ran into some problems and opposition. "Some law enforcers think the fines are too steep and they don't want to give out fines since they know the person who violated the law."

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) has introduced HB 19-26, which hopes to improve enforcement of the litter control program and reducing the fines of $200 or not more than $500 to $25 and not exceeding $5,000. Both HB 19-27 and HB 19-26 have passed the House and are now in the Senate.

Commonwealth Advocacy for Recovery Efforts director Jenny Hegland, whose group has been doing village cleanups since October, said that there is a huge need of cleaning up the island.

"This is great timing [reviving Beautify CNMI!] because what I see is there's a huge need of village cleanup. We've been helping sort out typhoon debris since September, as much as possible we want to get rid of these since they are safety hazard if another typhoon comes. We're canvassing neighborhoods that still have typhoon debris."

The Eight Dimensions of Wellness

Holistic approach to everyday living

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Improving one's quality of life and personality development has been everyone's goal. Having a healthy life, without the threat of disease or any other illness, does not only prolong your life but also give you the confidence that could boost your mental health.

The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration listed eight dimensions of wellness—an interconnected way of everyday living where being physically fit could also lead to emotional, environmental, intellectual, occupational, spiritual and social or interpersonal fulfillment. Wellness does not only mean that you are free of illness but also a dynamic process where your personality grows

Having complete control of your personal life (physical) could create a domino effect where it could also give you peace of mind (emotional, intellectual, and spiritual), leading to a better understanding of your surroundings (environmental, occupational, and social), which in turn could boost your income or financial wellness.

Health and wellness are intertwined with the eight aspects serving as the web that keeps it glued together. Wellness does not only mean you are free from any sickness but also in general living with a balanced mind, body, and spirit that gives you a sense of fulfillment. Our bodies can function properly, be it at work or having some rest and recreation, if we are physically fit.

Physical wellness

Being also informed of health risks can prevent illness or diseases that could disrupt the way of your life. You will get worried if you're sick that could lead to missing work and loss of income. You can control your physical and mental aspects with proper diet, watching what you eat and drink and regular exercise.

Making better choices in life can help you change and discard unhealthy habits that could jeopardize your personal wellbeing. A complete turnaround of your once unhealthy lifestyle is beneficial not only to you but to others as well.

See HOLISTIC on Page 19

Maintaining the balance

By GREG BORJA
NMPASI PROJECTS SPECIALIST

When it comes to a holistic approach to wellness, as defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Eight Dimensions of Wellness, we may at times neglect our psychological or mental/emotional wellbeing. This is largely due to factors like stigma or an embarrassment we may feel when admitting we need help for our mental health.

Stigma can be defined as "a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance or quality." A lack of understanding often shrouds our community when we are faced with behaviors from ourselves or our loved ones that are outside the "culturally accepted norm." Through education and awareness we can lift this veil in order to seek a pathway to find the assistance we need to cope with what is happening to us. Measures are currently being taken in our community by programs, such as the System of Care, that strives to transition us out of the shadows of shame and into the light of recovery.

Stress in our daily lives that that may lead us toward the need for psychological wellness. There are strategies that we can use to assist in handling these feelings, and contribute to the other seven Dimensions of Wellness that keep us in balance. The following are not scientifically proven methods to handle stress, but they are ideas I use when dealing with my own experiences:

Strengthening our Social Wellness by building healthy relationships through a culture of Dignity and Respect with our friends and family may reduce our stresses and positively influence our Emotional Wellness.

Finding satisfaction in the jobs or work we do, not only increases our Occupational Wellness, but adds to our Financial Wellness.

Caring about where we live and for those around us can improve our Environmental Wellness. For instance, participating in cleanup projects on our roads and beaches not only lifts our Spiritual Wellness, but has the potential to impact our Physical Wellness through body movement. It has been said that, "a healthy body is a happy body."

Finally, by increasing our knowledge about the Eight Dimensions of Wellness we expand our Intellectual Wellness again helping us reach a balance in our lives.

While we focus on our wellness, we must not forget the wellbeing of our youth. Our islands have received funding for services to assist our youth and their families in improving their care and opportunities through a System of Care. Our System of Care believes that "our children deserve to live in a community whose understanding of, and respect for, mental health issues are constantly evolving and that actively encourages help-seeking behaviors for those struggling with Severe Emotional Disorders." This type of proactive approach in addressing our island's needs, paves the way toward a promising future in which the generations to come will have support to strengthen their Emotional Wellness and maintain a healthy balance in their lives.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC)
Community Guidance Center (CGC)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION SERVICES

- **Pacific Jurisdiction Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training** (Evidence Based)
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- **ASIST** - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (Evidence Based) - Brief suicide intervention and safe skills for sustaining life or linking to appropriate referral.
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- **Promotion and awareness of the dangers of Prescription Drug misuse and abuse**.

Outreach presentations and exhibits about substance prevention-related topics are available upon request. Visit http://chcc.gov.mp to findA the Behavioral Health Services Request form or email: cgcprevention@gmail.com.
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Located on Navy Hill
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Hours: Monday to Friday,
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Telephone: (670) 323-6560/1

For Tinian & Rota CGC Services please call:
Keith Nabors
at 433-6572 (Tinian)
Benedicta San Nicolas
at 532-9461 (Rota)

Brand new dental plan now accepting members

There is a new dental plan in the CNMI, and they are now open for business.

Modeled after a very popular type of dental plan in the United States, the Island Smiles Dental Plan is the least expensive dental plan in the CNMI.

The plan is administered by Friends First Marketing Inc. and we got to sit down with company owner, Donna Krum, who goes by the nickname "Dental Donna."

Donna explained that members of the plan pay a low annual fee to join. The annual fee is $104 for an individual plan, $130 for a couple or two-party plan, or $156 for a family plan. There is a one-time administration fee of $15 to become a member of the plan. Benefits under the plan are available immediately upon enrollment. There are no waiting periods and the annual cost of the plan will never increase for existing members.

For a limited time, new members can receive 13 months of the plan for the price of 12!

Members will receive at least a 20 to 50 percent discount on every dental service offered by the plan provider, including cosmetic dentistry.They will never pay full fees for any dental treatment available from the plan provider. In addition, there is never a charge for office visits, digital X-rays, examinations, full periodontal exams, consultations, second opinions, and oral cancer screenings. These are all free services as a member of the plan.

The plan provider for the new Island Smiles Dental Plan is Paradise Dental Center. They are a brand new state-of-the-art dental clinic located on Middle Road in Gualo Rai, next to EZ Mart, in the

See BRAND on next page

Donna Krum

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Family atmosphere at Saipan Ice

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Saipan Ice & Water Co. employees Dolorisa Lisua and Lito Dizon, the office is their second home, which makes management and their co-workers their extended family.

"They allowed me to work part time here when I was still studying. The boss [Milagros P. Pellegrino] had been encouraging me to apply, so I tried to apply full-time and now I'm still here," said Lisua, who has been with Saipan Ice for six years now.

"I feel comfortable working here. This is my second home and everyone is pretty much family to me," added Lisua, who had to stop her studies at Northern Marianas College to work full time in order to provide for her soon-to-be 2-year-old son.

Dizon said management has also been kind to them that aside from getting their paychecks on time, they usually hold gatherings.

"Management treats employees like one of their own. They usually order food or have it catered then we eat like a one big family. It is a good team building exercise since it strengthens friendships and our relationship in the work place," added Dizon, who has been with Saipan Ice for 13 years now where he is the current sales manager.

That family atmosphere has made Lisua, Dizon, and their co-workers more productive at work. It has also increased the company's sales and revenues and Saipan Ice has never missed providing their employees' salaries on time.

"Ever since I worked here we always get paid on time, sometimes it is one day in advance. Salary is one of the most important things for employees. You can't tell your family to not eat or to your landlord that 'I can't pay rent today because my salary is delayed.' So far, it has been a rewarding experience and we are well compensated," said Dizon.

For Lisua, providing for her family, helping her with school stuff when she was still studying, and getting herself a brand new car are the rewards she got from working in the island's first drinking water company.

"Working here helped me provide for my family. I can buy my son what he wants and at the same time, I used my salary to pay for my tuition and other school stuff when I was still studying at NMC. It also helped me get a new car," Lisua said with a smile.

"I gained a lot of knowledge and experience here. My co-workers have been a big help to me by sharing what they know. Now, I'm planning to go back to school and take two more semesters. I have to fix my schedule so I won't have any problems with work," said Lisua, who was taking Liberal Arts at Northern Marianas College.

"We're planning to relocate to the U.S. My family is in Denver, Colorado so I will again look for a job there and continue my studies."

Dizon, who has more than 30 years of work experience including 12 years in the Middle East, said Saipan Ice has continuously reached out to the community especially after Typhoon Soudelor last year.

"We had our equipment here so we managed to provide water to our customers. Our water was always sold out after the typhoon. We also gave free water to families in Koblerville, Dandan and other areas of the island."

Saipan Ice can produce 700 to 800 5-gallon bottles of water in an hour with their automatic bottling machine. They also have their own laboratory and chemists that do daily sampling and sanitation checks to make sure the product is safe. Their water tanks also has a filling capacity of 96,000 gallons.

30th
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MyPro: Time for young leaders to shine

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About a year ago, seven young professionals met to discuss issues affecting the CNMI, with a plan to empower their young peers and steer the Commonwealth in right directions.

That was the birth of the Marianas Young Professionals, an independent non-profit organization composed of young and dynamic individuals, full of ideas to build a better CNMI.

MyPros wants to stir up flames among CNMI youth and empower them with skills and knowledge to reshape their future. Legacies, lessons, and values—these are what the group aims to impart on those willing to rise up to the challenge as the next wave of CNMI leaders.

"We hope through MyPros we can empower the youth of today to take an active role in the decision making process in the CNMI. We also hope to provide a support system for emerging professionals who may struggle to find their niche in the CNMI and make the CNMI workforce an appealing place for those who are away in college to return," said MyPros director Matt Deleon Guerrero, a senior policy adviser at the Governor's Office.

"As a nonprofit start-up, several young professionals recognized a need and had a desire to establish an organization to meet that need," Deleon Guerrero said. "The founding members brainstormed the feasibility of creating MyPros, various ideas and plans were tossed around and, eventually, the decision was made to formally establish an actual entity—the Marianas Young Professionals (MyPros). In the course of discussions of getting established, the first board of directors was installed."

The current members of the board are also emerging professionals. MyPros also has a current membership of 70 young professionals.

Bo Palacios is the founding president of MyPros and is joined by Xerox sales executive Nola Hix (vice president), Northern Marianas College director for Institutional Effectivenes Jacqueline Che (secretary), Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water shed engineer Nikki Villagomez (treasurer), and directors Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) and REACH project assistant at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health Services Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu.

MyPros has also discussed "the lack of outlets" to connect young people who are trying to build their careers, Deleon Guerrero said.

"So we came up with the MyPros to connect passionate young professionals with opportunities to grow and engage socially, professionally, and civically for the benefit of the Commonwealth."

MyPros remains independent, and is not connected to any political party or interest group. They are a diverse group of individuals united with a common goal of helping the future of the CNMI.

"There are no limitations or restrictions in the scope of our network. MyPros represent various parts of the CNMI. Having an independent nonprofit organization (not directly connected to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce or receiving financial backing from any business) helps keep things in perspective," added Deleon Guerrero.

"Our board and membership is very diverse, so we talk about issues from domestic violence, drug addiction and health care to poverty, to the legislative process, to professional development and skills building."

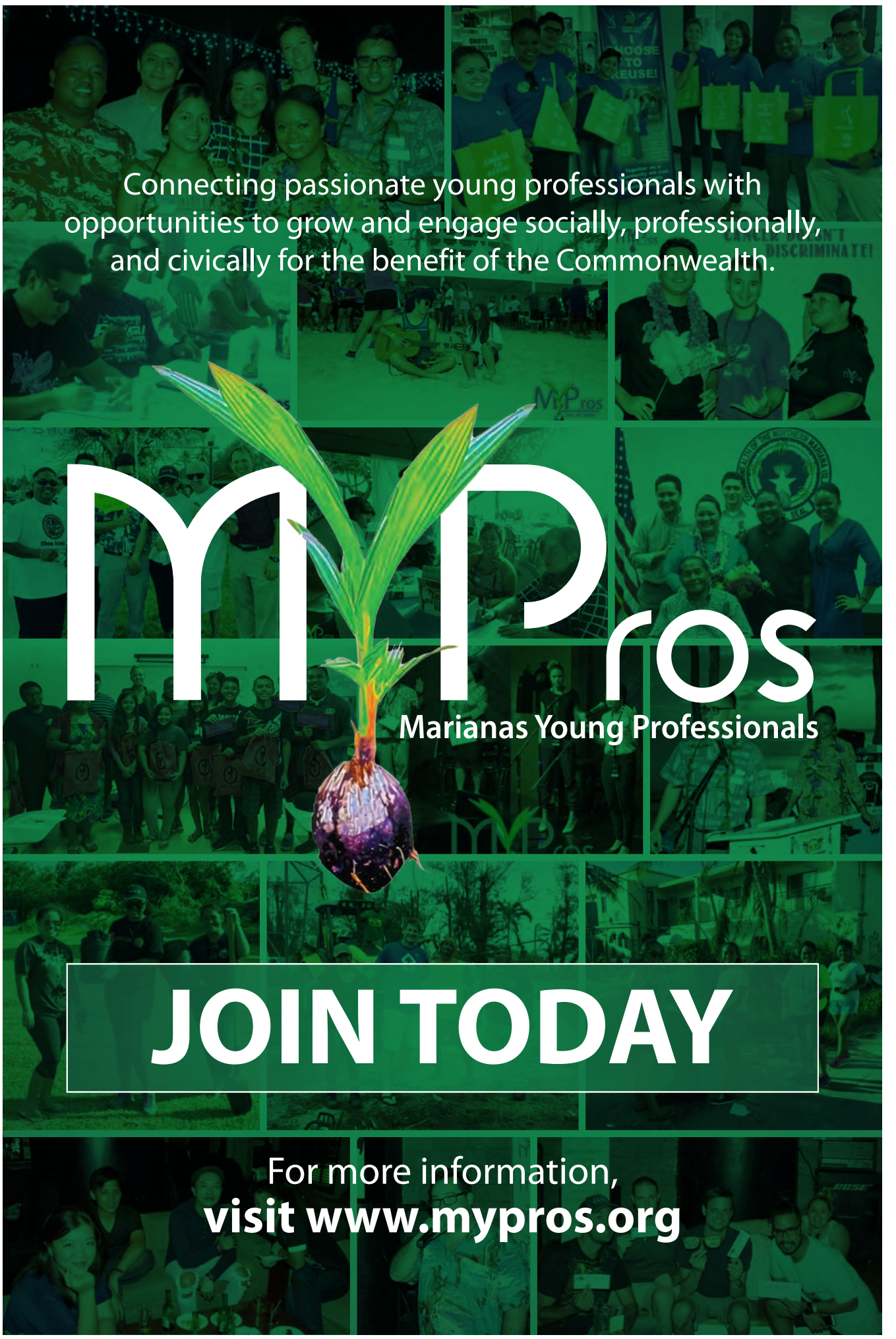
MyPros' objectives are to attract, promote and retain young professionals in the CNMI; provide them with unique opportunities for professional development, entrepreneurial endeavors, networking, monitoring, and civic involvement; empowering future leaders to enact positive change; and build fruitful partnerships across all sectors of the community.

The board holds monthly meetings to discuss current and upcoming activities, events and initiatives. The board and the members meet on a quarterly basis but Typhoon Soudelor ruined their schedule.

MyPros membership is open to all CNMI residents age 21 to 40. Annual membership dues are $30. They are looking for individuals who want to engage in positive change and meet their peers who want to do the same.

"Some people may not consider themselves a professional, so they shouldn't join, but that isn't the case. We are not looking for credentials," said Deleon Guerrero.

They have been busy doing a number of community projects like Adopt-A-Highway, relief drive for the people of Rota after Typhoon Dolphin, hosted a breast cancer walk Pinktober, a "war on ice" active participant, organized United 4 Saipan—a grassroots volunteer group that provided access to water, food and other essentials for people affected by Typhoon Soudelor.


Connecting passionate young professionals with opportunities to grow and engage socially, professionally, and civically for the benefit of the Commonwealth.
MyPros
Marianas Young Professionals
JOIN TODAY
For more information,
visit www.mypros.org

BRAND

From Page 16

old CDA Building. They are a full service general and cosmetic dental vlinic and the first brand new dental clinic on the island in over a decade. In building the clinic, no expense was spared in bringing the best that dentistry has to offer in the U.S. here to our island home. They are the big orange building on Middle Road, you can't miss them! Their telephone number is 234-4040.

Donna explained that when Island Smiles Dental Plan members visit Paradise Dental Center, they would always be shown full fees along with the discounted fees. That way plan members can really see how much money they are saving on their dental treatment as members of the plan.

Insurance plans are typically very confusing, says Donna, who has worked with dental plans in the U.S. for more than 20 years. For example, when a plan says that crowns are covered at 50 percent, what does that really mean to your wallet? Fifty percent of what number? The fees on the Island Smiles Dental plan are truly transparent and list the actual out-of-pocket expense to the patient. It is a very simple plan that patients understand right away. There is even a complete listing of all of the discounted fees on the dental plan website, www.islandsmilesdentalplan.com.

The plan is also very flexible and can be used along with traditional insurance plans, such as Take Care, StayWell, and Hawaii Dental Service. The Paradise Dental Center team are experts in helping patients maximize their dental plans and minimize their out-of-pocket costs. A great example is with cosmetic dentistry. There was a recent patient that wanted fancy cosmetic dental work on all of his front teeth, but cosmetic dentistry was excluded on his dental plan, and he was looking at having to pay full fees for his cosmetic treatment. Instead, he was able to purchase the Island Smiles Dental Plan, which provides discounted fees for cosmetic work, and he saved over $4,000! Another example is when a patient uses up their yearly maximum on their dental plan. They can then use the Island Smiles Dental Plan to be able to continue additional treatment at the discounted fees.

Enrollment packets for the plan are available at Paradise Dental center, online at www.islandsmilesdentalplan.com or via email request to dentaldonna@islandsmilesdentalplan.com

The plan is also available to government and employer groups via payroll deduction.

For more information on the Island Smiles Dental Plan, contact the plan administrator, Friends First Marketing, Inc. at 783-1900 or email: dentaldonna@islandsmilesdentalplan.com.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

MISSION:

"To protect the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in the CNMI"

NMPASI is a private non-profit organization receiving Federal funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Education, and the Social Security Administration, providing Protection & Advocacy (P&A) services.

Current Programs:

- **Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)**
- **Protection & Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities (PADD)**
- **Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)**
- **Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)**
- **Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)**
- **Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)**
- **Protection & Advocacy for Elderly Abuse (PAEA)**
- **Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

Services provided by NMPASI:

A. Information and Referral
Anyone with questions about disabilities, or issues surrounding them can contact us for assistance and referral.

B. Direct Client Representation
Investigation, negotiations, mediations and litigation services who meet eligibility criteria.

C. Technical Assistance
We conduct American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) review for anyone in the CNMI.

D. Training and Education
Any group who wants education on disability rights, IDEA, ADA, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act can contact us for training.

Contact Information
Office located on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, north of Gualo Rai Intersection

Address:
P.O. Box 503529 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 235-7273/74 • TTY: (670) 235-7275 • Fax: (670) 235-7275
Web: www.nmpasi.org • www.youtube.com/user/NMPASIcnmi
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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation | Division of Public Health Services – Dental Clinic
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This ad has been brought to you by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau – H.O.M.E. Visiting Program, through funds by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services.

NNMPASI

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.is a private non-profit organization receiving federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Education and the Social Security Administration, providing Protection & Advocacy (P&A) services.

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Make control your goal

February is American Heart Month and PHI Pharmacy is committed to help make blood Pressure control your goal. Uncontrolled high blood pressure is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke. People with high blood pressure are four times more likely to die from a stroke and three times more likely to die from heart disease, compared to those with normal blood pressure.

Having high blood pressure often shows no signs or symptoms, which is why having your blood pressure checked regularly is important. It's easy to get your blood pressure checked. You can get screened at your doctor's office, at home using a home blood pressure monitor or at both of our friendly PHI Pharmacy locations. Pharmacists are always there to answer any questions you may have about how to interpret your blood pressure results, teach you how to get more accurate results and the next step in taking control of your blood pressure. While there are many factors that can affect your blood pressure, here are just a few positive things you can do.

Healthy eating

You don't need to be a chef to create heart-healthy meals your family will love. Healthy eating starts with ingredients. Learning what to look for at the grocery store can go a long way toward creating nutritious, well balanced creations.

Physical activity

Walking is the simplest positive change you can make to improve your heart health. The American Heart Association recommends that adults get 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity each week. Even short 10-minute activity sessions can be added up over the week to reach this goal.

Stress management

Positive self-talk is one way to deal with stress. Self-talk can be positive ("I can do this" or "Things will work out") or it can be negative ("I'll never get well" or "Nobody likes me"). Negative self-talk increases stress. Positive self-talk helps you calm down and control stress. With practice, you can learn to turn negative thoughts into positive ones.

Quit smoking

Smoking, as well as chewing tobacco/betel nut, can increase your blood pressure and also put you at risk for other diseases like cancer. There are many available resources to help you quit smoking.

PHI Pharmacy is honored to serve the CNMI for nearly 20 years and is a proud advocate of the Health and Wellness concerning the people of Saipan. ***(Joshua Wise Pharm.D.)***

HOLISTIC

From Page 15

Emotional wellness

Being emotionally mature is having the ability to face and handle life's daily challenges and can develop positive concepts. Emotionally healthy people, who know how to control their emotions, have the self-confidence in getting back on their feet after a setback and they are also capable of building stronger relationships.

Dedication, determination, optimism, persistence, and trust are the other examples of positive qualities that an emotionally mature person can develop.

Self-doubt can ruin everything but you can turn things around by continuously thinking and saying positive compliments to yourself, and visualization that could help you get over the hump and boost your confidence so you won't easily give up when you encounter rough patches on the road.

Spiritual wellness

Spiritual wellness is the ability to establish peace and harmony, as well as to develop beliefs that give meaning or purposes to our lives. The National Wellness Institute wrote, "it is better to live each day in a way that is consistent with our values and beliefs that to do otherwise and feel untrue to ourselves." For some people, they find spiritual growth by being part of an organized religion but there are others who discover themselves and the purpose of their lives through other practices such as meditation, yoga, prayers, and affirmations, among many other mystical practices that support our connection to a higher power or belief system. Understanding the purpose of our lives and values allow us to develop deep appreciation of our family,

See HOLISTIC on Page 21

Good Health

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- **A - AVOID** others when you are sick and please AVOID touching your eyes, nose, and mouth because germs spread this way.
- **T - TEACH** others how to prevent the flu by being a Kung Flu Fighter!!!
- **C - COVER** your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, sleeve, or in your shirt and NOT YOUR HANDS!!!
- **H - HAVE** a plan in case you get sick.

Contact the Immunization Program at the Division of Public health at the numbers below:

Saipan: 236-8745 | Tinian: 433-9233 | Rota: 532-9457

Other Tel. Nos.: 236-8745/8780/81/3 | For more information, visit **www.cdc.gov/vaccines**

Voacolos want Saipan to go green

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jeff Voacolo and his wife Tracy are trying to help the CNMI, starting with Saipan, to go green. Both believe that alternative sources of energy, like solar power, is the next big thing.

The Voacolos are the tag team behind Micronesia Renewable Energy, a company that has already gained a foothold in Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia. They are hoping to introduce modern renewable energy solutions to Saipan for free and no extra cost.

And they have the numbers to show that they know what they are doing.

Jeff, MRE vice president, has more than 35 years of experience in the renewable energy industry starting his career as one of the premier electrical contractors in New Jersey. He earned his engineering degree through the U.S. Naval Construction Force or the Seabees, where he also served for nine years giving him the chance to work in some of large infrastructure projects.

His wife Tracy, the MRE president, started her career with Myles Electric, a prominent electrical contracting firm in Lawrenceville, New Jersey in 1984 then moved to the family-owned Voacolo Electric, Inc. in 1999.

Tracy, who earned her business management and accounting degrees from Rider University, continued to work for Voacolo Electric even when it was bought by Exton, Pennsylvania-based design-build firm WPCS International.

Together, they bring a combined experience of more than 60 years in the engineering and renewable energy industry.

"I've been with the renewable industry from the beginning. I saw how things started, the problems that we faced and how it slowly grew. And in the last five years, there's a drastic change. The renewable energy industry is growing and it is here to stay," said Jeff.

They already installed solar panels to over 50 houses in Guam and three schools in Pohnpei. They are hoping to do the same in the CNMI, starting with Saipan. "We're just getting started, getting traction here and it has only been seven months since we opened our office here on Saipan."

"We're not just introducing renewable source of energy to the community but also contributes to Saipan's economy like paying wages of our employees and paying our taxes," said Jeff, adding that they want to offer a cheaper and cleaner alternative source of energy that could turn households into their own mini power plant.

Why solar power?

"It is a natural transformation of energy where we will no longer need big power plants that run on diesel fuels, which are costly and at the same time not environmental friendly. Their electricity rates depend on the prices of oil, which often goes up."

"It is also less maintenance compared to wind turbines, which has gears and mechanical parts. In solar, just put the panels up, connect it to your house, turn it on and you're good to go. It is zero maintenance and can last to 25 years."

Jeff said the cost of Guam's average electrical consumption is between $300 to $500, but using solar power saves them 10 percent per month. "When rates go up, this increases the savings as time goes by."

"On Saipan, its about the same with solar. But the utility is considering in raising rates in March. So this will increase their savings considerably in the future."

What's the catch?

Jeff said getting a solar panel up on your roof is totally free and with no extra cost to the homeowner. "We don't sell or give away solar panels. We sell solar energy through energy storage,

See VOACOLOS on Page 22

HOLISTIC

From Page 19

friends, environment and everything else that surrounds us. It also helps attain the ability to integrate good moral values and beliefs on our daily actions and or decisions.

Ultimately, being spiritualy well not only allows us to develop appreciation of everything including ourselves, but it also enables us to withstand the hardships that may come upon us with great resilience.

Environmental wellness

It is your ability to being responsible, respectful, and living in harmony with the environment. Environmental awareness means knowing that the earth's natural resources have its limits and exploiting it will have a significant impact in our lives.

Intellectual

Being open to new ideas, and recognizing the knowledge and experiences they shared also improves your personal relationship. Expressing your views lets you connect with others and create rapport in and outside your family. Finding ways to expand your skills can also create a support system that can help you in other important facets of life.

Interpersonal wellness

Is the ability to connect with other people in your home, workplace, community, or the world. It refers to one's ability to develop and maintain relationships through good communication skills, compassion, as well as, respect for others including ourselves. Interpersonal wellness enables us to live in harmony with other people, while contributing to the welfare of our community and environment.

It is closely related to emotional, physical, and mental wellness. For example, a healthy relationship can have positive health benefits on our wellbeing. Similarly, an unhealthy and dysfunctional relationship can lead us to depression and other disorders.

It has significant impact on our wellbeing, whether personal or professional relationship. It helps us create a support system, which helps us go through the many challenges of our lives, and to share and bare witness on our joys and triumphs.

Occupational wellness

Occupational wellness is finding your chosen career and having the feeling of satisfaction in what you do. It also focuses on your ability to balance work and leisure time, handle work stress, and build rapport with your coworkers. Team-building seminars, out-of-town trips, or other forms of bonding exercises build harmonious relationships in the workplace. Happy workers are productive employees that could benefit the whole company by increase in sales and revenues and customer satisfaction.

Financial wellness

Doing what you love leads to financial stability where you learn how to manage your money for current and future use. Some companies offer financial management seminars to its employees that could help them with their retirement. Planning your finances and being able to determine your needs from your wants is considered to be among the steps of getting financially healthy. Providing food, shelter, and clothing to your family are the needs, while wants are things that you get if there's extra after you had provided for the essentials.

SOLAR with BATTERY STORAGE
So You'll have Power even when Utility Power isn't Available!
Now Available to Saipan Homeowners
You WILL NOT be affected by Rolling Blackouts or other Power Outages
You'll have Power During and After Storms
Zero Cost for Solar Energy System and Battery Storage Installation, Maintenance & Insurance
System Performance Guarantee
8kW battery bank
System Inverter / Charge Controller
4kW Battery Bank
8kW Battery Bank
Also Available in 12kW
Call or Stop by our Office
233-4673
Middle Road across Shell Highway Express and Pizza Hut in Gualo Rai
MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. CNMI

VOACOLOS

From Page 21

the homeowner will buy power but it is greatly cheaper and clean. We install the project at no charge and the consumer gets benefit from a renewable source of energy. Maintenance is also free we will make visits for the next 25 years."

"What we do is we compute the annual consumption cost of the homeowners using regular power and then we show them the cost if they use solar power. They will get huge savings plus whatever power they use, that's the one that they're buying. It also gives them the benefit of power security."

How strong are the solar panels?

One concern is the strength and stability of the solar panels after Saipan was hit by Typhoon Soudelor's 178mph winds. Jeff said that their system is designed to withstand 290mph winds.

"Saipan was hit pretty had by Soudelor but the racking panel is built strong and designed to withstand 290mph winds. Power was out for months but with solar energy it can give you security on back up energy. When the next storm comes, it will give you the peace of mind that you have this system with a back-up power and lower rates."

Jeff added the maintenance, design, and putting up the system will all be done by their highly-trained staff. They will first make a site visit on the house and make plans on how to put up the solar panels. "We know what we're doing and we know the best technology that is out there. If a palm tree breaks and hit the panels, we're back on your to fix it with the homeowner not going to pay anything."

Sunnova Energy Corp. is MRE's partner in bringing in solar service and battery storage to Saipan. The solar panels could power up to 12 kWh in a household. Homeowners are, however, advised not to use their electric range, hair dryer, and water heater that are considered battery storage "killers" for it consumes much power.

Their system is still designed for residential use as it would be too costly for commercial establishments. The back-up battery could provide energy to power lights, computers, television, air-conditioning units, refrigerators, and other household appliances that are not the so called battery storage "killers."

"They are some small dental and out-patient clinics Guam that also use the system. They have minimal energy needs where they only need to power refrigerators that store medicines, a couple of aircons and lights in case the regular power goes out," said Jeff, who added that they are also planning to expand MRE's reach to the Philippines which has a bigger market.

Type II Handcrew Packtest

February 25 & 26, 2016 at 1600-1800 hours
February 27, 2016 at 0600-0900 hours
Kilili Beach North Parking Lot

The Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services [DFEMS] Forestry Strike Team is looking for individuals for our Type II Handcrew. Applicants must be disciplined, reliable, physically fit, and are able to work hard under tough conditions.

TEST: Applicants must complete a 3 mile walk (no running) with a 45 lbs pack under a 45 minute time period.

REQUIREMENTS: IS 700, certification for returning individuals and a valid passport to enter the United States. Must turn in IS700 Before March 1st.

Contact Person: Firefighter Linus L. Mizutani Jr.
Email: llmizutani@dfems.gov.mp | Tel.: 285-7324

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

By taking off their slippers, children from Laly 4 show respect and appreciation for the recently cleaned basketball court by the Corporate Social Responsibility team of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

The famed Beach Road continues to get cleaned up courtesy of BSI's CSR team.

Members of the BSI-CSR team weave coconut fronds in preparation for today's (Friday) Village Pride Project to be held at the Garapan Central Park and at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Oleai, from 6pm to 9pm.

The tank, which sits as reminder of the island's role during the Second World War, and the highway shoulder along the Beach Road-Quartermaster intersection received a much-needed fresh coat of point and sprucing up its nearby surroundings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan-Tinian ferry available Pika Festival weekend

In conjunction with the 12th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival and Pika Bike Race on Valentine's Day weekend, the Marianas Visitors Authority has chartered a ferry between Saipan and Tinian.

The ferry departs Saipan on Feb. 12 at 6pm, on Feb. 13 at 9am, on Feb. 14 at 9am and 4pm, and on Feb. 15 at 8am. The ferry departs Tinian on Feb. 12 at 8:30pm, on Feb. 13 at 6:30pm, on Feb. 14 at 2pm and 6pm, and on Feb. 15 at 12pm.

The cost is $38 round-trip and $19 one way. Children up to age 5 are free.

"The ferry is open on a first-come, first-serve basis, and we encourage everyone to buy their tickets early. Bikers who want to bring their bikes to Tinian for the 65K Pika Bike Race at 6am on Saturday (Feb. 13) morning will need to go down Friday (Feb. 12) night," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "This is also a great opportunity for residents of Tinian who want to come to Saipan on Friday night for shopping or other purposes."

Passengers may bring up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bikes. An additional $10 will be charged for each additional piece of cargo up to 70 lbs total. Coolers larger than 100 qt will not be accepted.

Tickets are non-transferable and non-refundable. Refunds will only be given if the ferry is cancelled due to weather. Payments may be made at the MVA offices on Saipan and Tinian.

The *Super Emerald* ferry will depart from the Port of Saipan in front of the Commonwealth Ports Authority building and main parking lot.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival highlights the island's famously potent "donne sali" pepper. The two-day island-style celebration, known as the Pika Festival by locals, showcases local cuisine laced with the "pika" (spicy), eye-watering condiment.

Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 13 and from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 14. Activities will include non-stop live entertainment and arts and crafts sales. Competitions slated for the event include the "estafao pika" (spicy soup) cooking contest, the *umang* (hermit crab) races, women's coconut husking and grinding contest, *kendama* (a traditional Japanes toy) tournament, a dragon boat race, and the *donni sali* eating competition, itself. The event will be held again this year at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose.

The event is co-sponsored by the MVA, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Municipal Council, Bikers Association of Tinian, and members of the MVA, with support from other government agencies.

For more information, contact Vida Borja at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com or Ryan Calvo at 1.670.664.200 or email at rcalvo@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The island of Tinian will host 12th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival and Pika Bike Race on Feb. 13-14, 2016. Ferry transportation between Saipan and Tinian is available for festival weekend.

Chinese association releases Lion Dance sked

The Chinese Association of Saipan wishes you good health, prosperity, and success as you stride forth into the New Year.

The year 2016 is the Year of the Monkey and 2016 Chinese New Year falls on Feb, 8, Monday. As you know, the monkey is optimistic, ambitious, and adventurous. Wish we can welcome and challenge the coming year as the monkey.

Each year at this time the association brings the Chinese community together in celebration of the Spring Festival including the Lion Dance and Chinese New Year Party. To celebrate in style, the Chinese association offers a Lion Dance performance on Feb 8. The Lion Dance is a traditional New Year dance that drives out evil spirits while providing good fortune for the New Year. Wish the CNMI a prosperous and wonderful New Year.

Below is the Lion Dance schedule in military time, Monday, Feb. 8:

TSL plaza	08:15
JP Center	09:00
Hyatt Regency Saipan (I Love Saipan)	11:30
Canton Restaurant	12:15
Majesty Restaurant	12:30
IT&E (Middle Road)	14:45
Subway	15:00
Century Hotel	16:10
Micro Beach Hotel	16:50
Fiesta Resort & Spa	17:00
I Love Saipan (PDM)	17:30
Sunleader Market	18:00
Hyatt Regency Saipan Tribune	18:30
I Love Saipan	19:00
DFS Saipan Limited	20:00
Louis Vuitton	20:20
Best Sunshine Live	20:30
World Resort Saipan	21:00

Early Valentine at
Blossoms
Floral Shop
Don't wait for the weekend; deliver to your Cupid early with gifts from Blossoms Floral Shop and make her day extra special by stretching out Valentine's Day. Fill her heart with all the romance of assorted roses, wet her lips with chocolates, sparkle the room up with candles from Bath & Body, dine with wine, touch her soft body with endless love fragrances all arranged with beautiful flowers of your choice.
Stop by Blossoms Floral Shop and see our selections of Valentine gifts and flowers and let us help you make your Cupid have endless memories.
Make your Cupid Smile and give her the Valentine of her HEART.
Be Mine
Cutie Pie
TRUE LOVE
Love You
XOXO
Hug Me
Happy Valentine's Day!
Rock My Baby
Be My Valentine
CUPID IS IN LOVE
Crazy for you
WILD
Open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 – 6:00 pm
...Unlimited expressions for lasting impressions.
Blossoms Floral Depot & Novelties
J.E.T. Building, Gualo Rai, P.O. Box 500070 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-235-2276/235-7372 • Fax: 670-235-7371

MVA, Delta host Japan travel agents

To revitalize visitor arrivals from Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines have begun a series of travel trade FAM tours targeting wholesalers in the country.

The FAM tours are one of the proposals made in a December 2015 meeting in Saipan between CNMI elected and industry leaders and Delta management.

"We're pleased to see the discussions we had in December being implemented in a collaboration between Delta and the CNMI," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "By bringing in travel agency planners to experience the Northern Marianas for themselves, we anticipate a greater interest in the islands, which we hope will translate to more sales of the destination."

The first group of planners visited from Jan. 27 to 30, 2016, and included representatives of JTB World Vacations, H.I.S., R&C Tours, Delta, and the MVA's Japan office. The group conducted site inspections at hotels and various tourist attractions.

"As this is one of the most popular times to visit the Northern Marianas, we owe a big thank you to all the industry partners who supported this FAM tours with donations of hotel accommodations, meals, optional tours, and others," said Tenorio. "This is a great opportunity to

work together on reviving the Japan market."

Similar FAM tours are scheduled for later athis month and next month, as well. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives of JTB World Vacations, H.I.S., R&C Tours, Delta Air Lines, and the Marianas Visitors Authority's Japan office visited Forbidden Island on Jan. 29, 2016, as part of a FAM tour organized by MVA and Delta to help increase travel from Japan to the Northern Mariana Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) GOVERNMENT

RFP16-RED001

"QUARRY OPERATOR ON PUBLIC LANDS"

Submission Deadline: March 04, 2016

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposal from quarry operators to conduct operations for commercial purposes on the following public lands in As Matuis, Saipan:

Lot 069 A 01, containing an area of approximately 20,000 square meters, more or less, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package can be picked up at the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten DanDan Commercial Building, Saipan, during working hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions regarding the RFP must be received **no later than 4:30pm on February 05, 2016** and must be submitted in writing to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary of DPL at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan MP 96950
2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Telephone number (s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Sealed proposal must be marked **"RFP16-RED001" Quarry Operator.** One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 4:00pm ChSt, March 4, 2016.**

Interviews may be conducted with the top two (2) ranked firms to discuss the proposal submitted if DPL deems the two proposals to be similarly advantageous to DPL.

DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if in its opinion would be in the best interests of the public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the Department of Public Lands.

PEDRO A. TENORIO, Secretary
Department of Public Lands

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Amendment No. 2

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ~~***Friday, March 25, 2016***~~ ***Monday, March 28, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after*** ~~***March 25, 2016***~~ ***March 28, 2016, will not be accepted.*** (note: March 25, 2016 is a CNMI Holiday)

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room located in Tatachog, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the Supply, Delivery, Installation, & Commissioning of Two (2)Runway PAPI Lights (Precision Approach Path Indicator) & Two (2) REIL Lights (Runway End Identifier Lights) for the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport, Rota
Project No. CPA ROTA-RFP-009-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified electrical and engineering firms, company, and/or corporations to supply, deliver, install and commission two (2) PAPI Lights & two (2) REIL Lights at the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport

The proposal package will be available beginning January 15, 2016, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at the Office of the Rota Ports Manager, Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport, at **0900 AM, February 5, 2016**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A subsequent site visit will be conducted in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **2:00 p.m., February 12, 2016**.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals may be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, via facsimile (fax) to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.receptionist@pticom.com no later than **February 5, 2016**. Response to inquiries shall be by addendum and provided to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Date: 01/05/16

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Saipan Tribune is inviting qualified candidates to apply for **ACCOUNTANT** position.

Qualifications:

- Associates degree in Finance or Accounting
- At least three years work-related experience in financial accounting with an emphasis on receivables and payroll
- Proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word, and PowerPoint office
- Knowledge in SAP R3 FICO accounting system is a plus, but not required
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player
- Above average written and oral English communication skills

Interested applicants may submit resume or obtain employment application at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located on 2nd floor of JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00pm, Friday, February 5, 2016.**

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-16-004

SURVEYED VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment located in Saipan & Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-ITB-16-004, CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles & equipment. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles/equipment to the prospective bidder in an "**As is, Where is**" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles/equipment.

The vehicles/equipment may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 664-4282 extensions 367 & 305. For the vehicles on Tinian, please contact Winston Omar at 433-9261 or 433-3488.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40' x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 22, 2016

Bordallo requests CBP assistance with visitor arrival wait times, FESTPAC

WASHINGTON, D.C— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo today wrote to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) to request assistance in supporting the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC) and to address systemic long visitor arrival wait times at the Guam International Airport.

Bordallo requested that CBP surge additional officers to Guam to accommodate the thousands of additional visitors who are anticipated to take part in FESTPAC. She raised concerns that the current CBP force on Guam may not have the resources and personnel to adequately manage visitor arrivals. Surging additional officers to Guam would be consistent with CBP practice for other locations in the U.S. mainland and Hawaii to accommodate large scale sporting and civic events.

Bordallo also requested that CBP address persistent long wait times at GIAA by providing automated kiosks that could expedite foreign visitors who have registered with trusted traveler programs, like Guam's ESTA program. She noted that similar technologies have been deployed to other international airports, like Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. and O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

"Guam's visitor industry is the primary base of our economy. Guam's international airport is the first impression that visitors have of our island, and it is critical that we efficiently process them through the immigration and customs process and minimize visitor arrival wait times. While I understand these challenges are not unique to Guam, wait times between 100 and 180 minutes is unacceptable. I strongly believe that utilizing new technologies, especially for trusted travelers, could significantly reduce these wait times. I hope that CBP will work with GIAA, GVB, and other local stakeholders to address this problem so that Guam can continue to be a preferred destination for foreign visitors.

"I also hope that CBP will support FESTPAC and provide additional resources and personnel to accommodate the large increase in foreign visitors to Guam during the festival. FESTPAC organizers anticipate more than 12,000 additional visitors to come to Guam to take part in the festival, and I am concerned that CBP's current force will be strained by this large influx of arrivals. I have asked Commissioner Kerikowske to surge additional officers to Guam for FESTPAC, which would be similar to CBP practice for other large scale events around the country. I look forward to working with CBP and other federal partners and local stakeholders to ensure that Guam is ready to host FESTPAC and extend our warm hospitality to our visitors." ***(PR)***

Manta Ray Band hot lunch tomorrow

The Manta Ray Band will have a hot lunch sale tomorrow, Feb. 6, from 8am to 12pm at the Oleai pavilion. Funds raised will be used for their trip to Guam where they will compete in the 2016 Tumon Bay Music Festival on March 3-12, 2016. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA ISLANDS HOUSING AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -v- LAWRENCE M. FLEMING and HERMINIA C. FLEMING	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 93-0253

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 11, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 005 I 509, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232 dated May 14, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of January, 2016.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 15-0199 **SUMMONS (for Publication)**

TO : HELGA G.G. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

Dated: December 24, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Second Publication

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. RYON OK CHANG, Defendant.	**Small Claims No. 15-0235 AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: RYON OK CHANG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **COMPLAINT.** You have **Twenty (20) days** after service of this **AMENDED SUMMONS** upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950,** or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger of by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this **AMENDED SUMMONS**, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 29th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT OF A GENERAL GUARDIAN AND CUSTODIAN FOR **JHANRHEY CONGE SUNGA** Minor Child, By: **JANICE CONGE SUNGA** Petitioner	FCD GU Civil Action No.: 16-0030 **NOTICE OF HEARING** Date: March 3, 2016 Time: 10:30 am Judge: Hon. Kenneth L. Govendo

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Janice Conge Sunga, has petitioned the above Court to appoint her as the general legal guardian and custodian of the minor child.

The hearing on this petition has been set before the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the 3rd day of March, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter as the matter can be heard.

Any person who has objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-043

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A NEW TRAILER FOR THE DFW 27' BOSTON WHALER CHALLENGER VESSEL FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-045

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2016 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) TRANSPORTATION AND DEPLOYMENT FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 AM

AMENDMENT #01
NMHC IFB 2016-002
"Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Tinian"

Governor Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the ground maintenance services for its properties in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan or at its Field Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Monday, January 25, 2016, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., during regular business hours, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Janet H. King's Building in San Jose Village on **February 17, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. **Inquiries** regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., February 18, 2016.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2016 • TIME: 11:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2016-006
AMENDMENT #01
"Rehabilitation of Kagman Community Park"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide construction services for the rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Park located at the Kagman Community Center, Kagman III, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **February 1, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of **Twenty Five Dollars** ***($25.00) is required for each set.*** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on February 18, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 / 234-7670 • Fax: 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Swearing-in
- c. Roll Call
- d. Adoption of Agenda
- e. Election of Officers
- f. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. November 18, 2015 Regular Board Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Ad Hoc Committee Report
- b. Divisional Monthly Reports

IV. OLD BUSINESS
- a. CPD Updates
- b. Program & Housing Division Updates
- c. Mortgage & Credit Division Updates
- d. Fiscal Division Updates
- e. Loan Assumption Proposal
- f. USDA RD Settlement Proposal

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Isa Villas Project Size Amendment and Return and Reallocation
- b. Loan Assistance Request
- c. CPP Resolution

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **EDWARD C. SABLAN**
Chairman of the Board

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCING REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the replacement of the airport perimeter fencing at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 19, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to remove and replace all airfield marking and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The design must comply with FAA A/C 150-5340-1L.

The project is being funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOADING BRIDGES 2, 3 AND 6 REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the removal and replacement of three (3) passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 19, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 4, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to remove and replace all airfield marking and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The design must comply with FAA A/C 150-5340-1L.

The project is being funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

Life & Style

Stellar Marianas to host MEGA PAGEANT this July

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner and 2015 Miss Marianas Teen Gianna Camacho recently share a playful moment during a modeling shoot with official photographer Daisuke Yanai. Stellar Marianas has begun the search for contestants for a combined pageant this July.

Celebrating a decade of pageantry, Stellar Marianas, the islands' nonprofit pageant and talent group, decided to combine for the first time the two major pageants into one stunning show this July.

The 2016 Miss Marianas and 2016 Miss Marianas Teen Pageants will be together on stage for the first time to give the community an unforgettable international show experience.

"All in all, the CNMI has been in pageantry for over 40 years and Stellar Marianas celebrates 10 years of empowering our young women and showcasing their incredible beauty, intelligence, talent, and dedication to the world," said Community Events director Myla Capilitan.

"We are super excited to have our Miss Marianas Teen contestants on stage with our Miss Marianas contestants to learn from and support each other. This is a historical moment worthy of two crowns," she smiled.

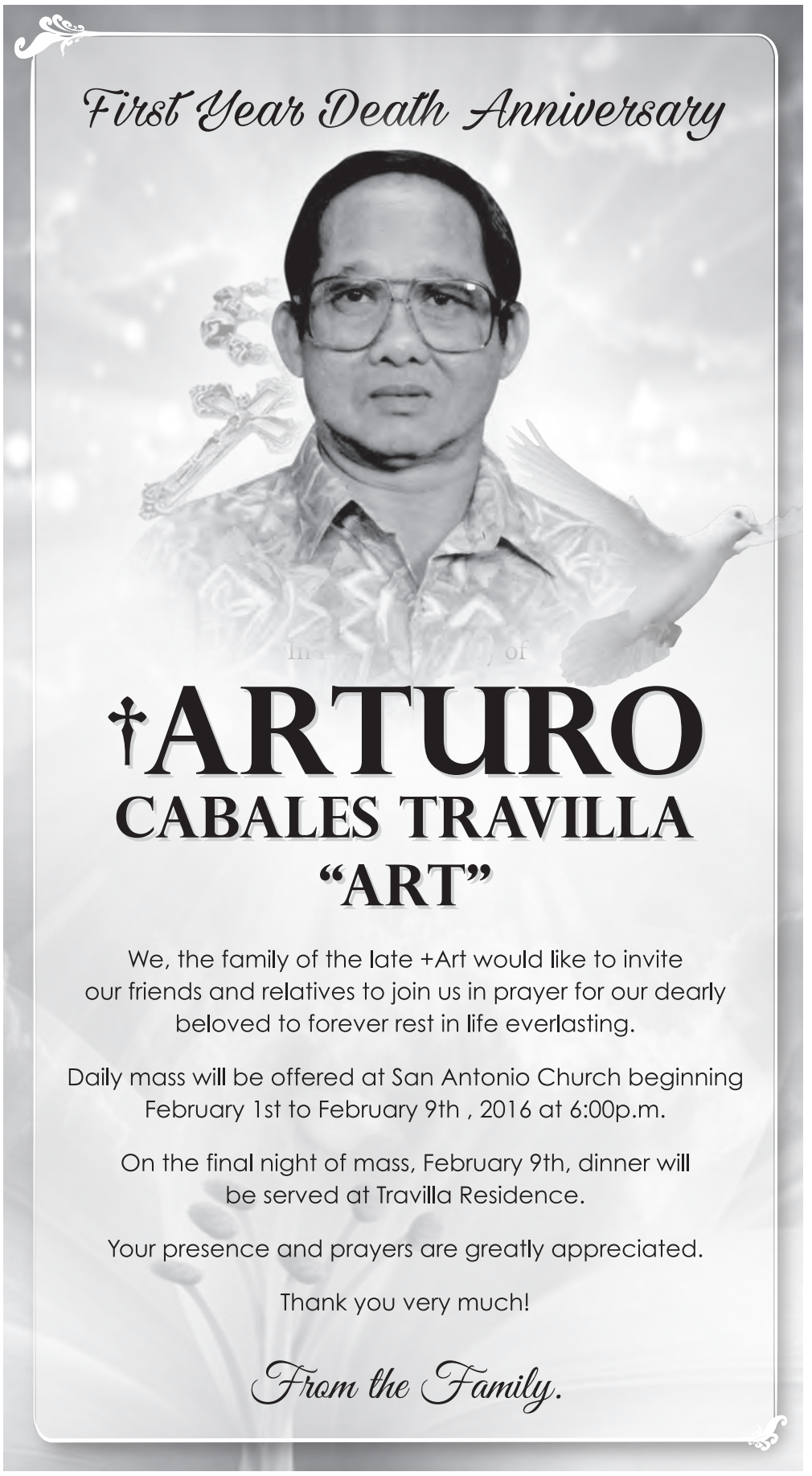
2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner will be crowning the 50th beauty queen to hold the title since the NMI began in pageantry and preparations have already begun to ensure the historic moment is celebrated.

Stellar Marianas has begun its search for eligible candidates and young women are encouraged to apply right away as participation is limited.

"As we are sharing the stage, we have to limit the number of contestants for both competitions and we encourage all those interested to pick up an application at Pena House Boutique in Chalan Kanoa or Iridescent Boutique in Garapan," said Capilitan.

Stellar Marianas offers an experience beyond pageantry where young women pick up valuable skills such as public speaking, media training, role modeling, current issues, and developing social platforms.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas or email stellarqueens@gmail.com. ***(PR)***


First Year Death Anniversary
†ARTURO
CABALES TRAVILLA
"ART"
We, the family of the late +Art would like to invite
our friends and relatives to join us in prayer for our dearly
beloved to forever rest in life everlasting.
Daily mass will be offered at San Antonio Church beginning
February 1st to February 9th , 2016 at 6:00p.m.
On the final night of mass, February 9th, dinner will
be served at Travilla Residence.
Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you very much!
From the Family.

Small displays tell larger tale of late husband's life

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My husband passed away recently and I have some items of his I'm unsure how to tastefully display to honor his memory. They are his Bible, a U.S. flag in a triangular display box (he was a veteran), a set of deer antlers, works he authored, his guitar and family photos. I don't want to build a shrine, but I don't want to stick these things in a closet, either.

He was passionate about his pursuits, and his passion was contagious. I want to pay tribute to him without making others uncomfortable. I have a small house, so a grouping of the items takes up significant space. The way I have them set up now is kind of shrine-like, and it's emotionally wrenching both for me and for visiting family. Suggestions, Abby?

WIDOW IN HOUSTON

DEAR WIDOW: I am sorry for the loss of your husband. Not knowing how many rooms there are in your home, it's impossible to tell you sight unseen how to display this memorabilia. However, to lessen the emotional impact, it might be better not to group these mementos all in one place. Another option would be to display the items at different times, so not all of them will be viewed at once.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: There's a guy I go to a church with. We spent most of the day together with his family. At first, it felt a little weird, and I was the one who broke the silence while we were at dinner. We went to a dance afterward and he was a gentleman. He helped me into the car, etc. He also taught me how to dance and we had a great time. He walked me to my front door at midnight.

When I got to church the following Sunday, I thanked him for coming to the dance with me and told him I had a wonderful time. His family knows I like him a lot. I talked to my mom about it and told her I was going to ask him out. She was fine with it, but when I said something about it to friends, they said it might tarnish our friendship.

Should I ask him out or wait for him to do it? I don't want to look dumb. And what do I say to my friends?

TEXAS GIRL WHO'S READY

DEAR TEXAS GIRL: When a guy spends most of the day with a girl, it's a good bet that he likes her. Wait a week or two before making your move, because he may ask you out in the meantime. However, if he doesn't, then casually ask him to do something with you, like go to a movie or sporting event or go hiking. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. And as to what to say to your friends about it, I vote for keeping your mouth firmly shut.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

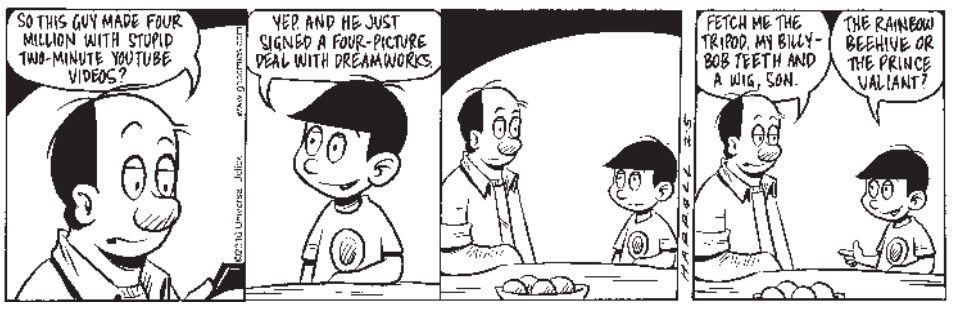
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

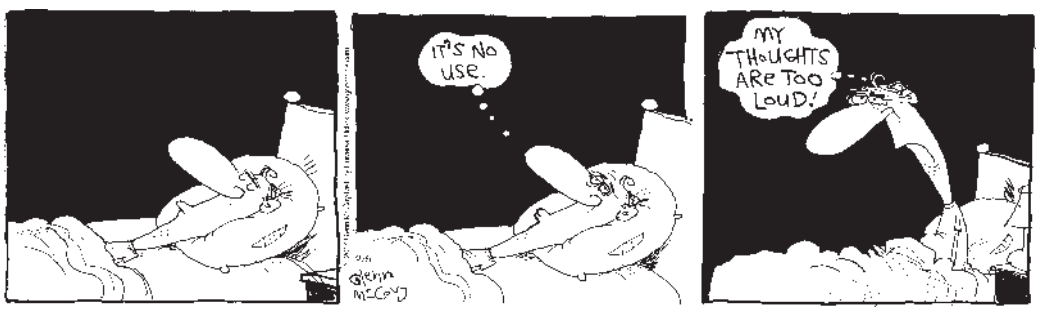
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO THIS GUY MADE FOUR MILLION WITH STUPID TWO-MINUTE YOUTUBE VIDEOS?
YEP. AND HE JUST SIGNED A FOUR-PICTURE DEAL WITH DREAMWORKS.
FETCH ME THE TRIPOD, MY BILLY-BOB TEETH AND A WIG, SON.
THE RAINBOW BEEHIVE OR THE PRINCE VALIANT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

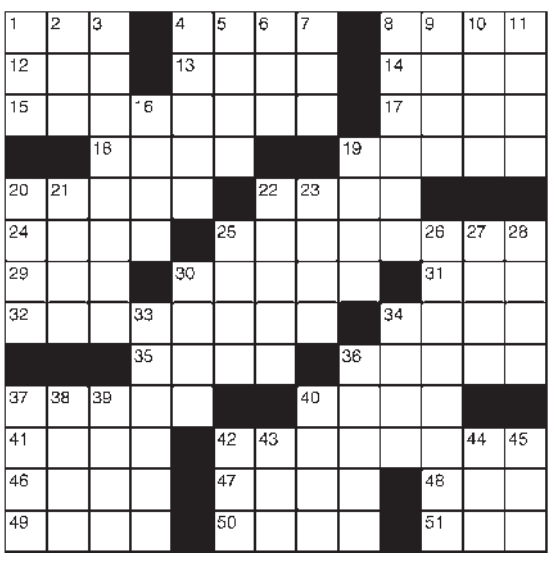
ACROSS
1 "— Doubtfire"
4 Miles away
8 Mideastern strip
12 Santa — winds
13 Check
14 Utah city
15 Supermarket workers
17 Farm fraction
18 Obey
19 Community spirit
20 Swim stroke
22 Ocean motion
24 Sun beams
25 Large-scale outbreak
29 Bio stat
30 Hardly hip
31 Jurist Lance
32 Contraptions
34 Canadian gas brand
35 Optimistic
36 Taj —
37 City-based
40 Wee wriggler
41 Swank
42 Toon villain Snidely —
46 Earring site
47 Samples of wordplay
48 Actor Erwin
49 Tag sale words
50 "Hi, sailor!"
51 Chapeau

DOWN
1 Raincoat, across the pond
2 Genetic letters
3 Walked glidingly
4 "The Tempest" sprite
5 Nourish
6 Vacuum's lack
7 ICU pros
8 Small beard
9 Eyebrow shape
10 Goose egg
11 Iowa city
16 Hacks with an axe
19 Vortex
20 Rocky outcrop
21 Sitar music
22 Lollygag
23 "500" race
25 Favorites
26 Hodgepodge
27 "— deal!" ("Sold!")
28 "Neato!"
30 Gas used in signs
33 Trio of mythic sisters
34 Hoops great Monroe
36 Sibling of Peter Rabbit
37 Pac-12 sch.
38 Frat letters
39 Netanyahu, informally
40 Drunkard
42 New Deal agcy.
43 "Say what?"
44 Depot (Abbr.)
45 Shack

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	K	I	C		A	L	F		A	B	E	-
L	E	A	R		D	E	R		L	Y	R	A
A	R	G	O		F	T	A		A	G	F	D
B	R	G	F	E	L		N	A	M	E		
			S	W	F	F	T	T	O	O	T	H
T	A	I	B	E		V	I	M		R	I	O
W	I	L	Y		T	I	C		O	G	E	E
A	C	L		P	U	T		D	Y	E	R	S
S	O	U	R	G	R	A	P	E	S			
		S	E	A	N		C	N	T	C	M	B
O	B	C	E		I	A	N		E	V	I	-
H	A	R	D		P	A	N		R	U	N	F
M	A	Y	S		S	H	E		S	M	E	W

Yesterday's answer 2-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darren Criss, 29; Michael Sheen, 47; Jennifer Jason Leigh, 54; Barbara Hershey, 68.

Happy Birthday: Preparation will be in your best interest. Expect the unexpected and be ready to roll with the punches. Don't expect anything, and don't be too willing to compromise if you aren't ready. This is a year to dedicate your time to your efforts, not someone else's. Be ready to rid yourself of bad influences. Your numbers are 4, 17, 20, 24, 36, 39, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Slow down and double-check everything you do. Mistakes will be made if you are careless. Learn from past experiences and keep personal information a secret. Impulsiveness will lead to injury or insult. Avoid arguments at all costs. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make things happen if you take charge. Voice your opinion and make suggestions. Ask for favors and be willing to match what anyone else is willing to do. Show how competitive and determined you can be. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't trust someone who is trying to sell you something. Put a halt on spending and place a greater emphasis on getting your personal and financial documents in order. Check out your options and ways to lower your overhead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Partnerships will make a difference to the way you move forward. Travel plans or a program that will help you make personal improvements should be put into play. Live your life and do your best to share with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep doing what you do until you reach your destination. Adapt to changes and show a willingness to get along with others. Arguments won't solve problems, but cooperation will. Rely on your ability to adapt and you will overcome any hurdle you face. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll win any challenge that comes your way. Use your intuition to maneuver your way through complex situations. Set your sights on having fun with family, friends or the ones you love. Update your image and you'll receive compliments. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Carefully consider the situations you face. Consider your options, but avoid conflict until you are in a position to fight back. Spend your time making personal changes that involve something you enjoy doing. Strive to be your best. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A past connection will help you get ahead. Call in favors or join forces with someone you know who can contribute to your goal. An organization you believe in will welcome your help and offer you something unexpected in return. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Proceed with caution. Too much of anything will end up setting you back emotionally, financially or physically. Slow down and consider the ups and downs of any situation before you take a leap of faith. Stick close to home. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can handle anything and anyone. Strive for perfection and put your skills and knowledge to the test. Make personal changes that will give you a trendy new image. Love is on the rise, and a romantic promise is in your best interest. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Check out your options and rely on past experiences and you will be able to make a move that will help you maintain what you have and avoid a run-in with someone who is looking for trouble. Don't divulge private information. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reestablish a relationship with someone you worked with in the past. Together you can turn an old idea into a new project. An emotional partnership will flourish if you make special plans to spend quality time with one another. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent and unpredictable. You are meticulous and perceptive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	4				9			7
			6		3	2		4
	2							
4	6						5	
				8				
	3						1	9
							7	
8		2	7		5			
7			9				3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	4	9	7	1	2	3	5
7	9	5	4	2	3	8	6	1
1	2	3	6	8	5	7	9	4
4	1	8	5	6	9	3	2	7
3	5	7	2	1	8	9	4	6
9	6	2	7	3	4	5	1	8
2	4	1	8	9	7	6	5	3
5	7	6	3	4	2	1	8	9
8	3	9	1	5	6	4	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ADELE **Solution: 11 letters**

G	R	N	R	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	S	H	I	P
S	N	E	E	E	N	O	Y	T	N	E	W	T	U	E
T	L	O	M	E	D	N	O	B	J	N	N	O	C	N
O	R	E	S	A	T	L	R	L	O	A	Y	U	O	N
O	L	A	M	E	E	E	U	D	L	E	M	M	R	Y
R	L	E	E	M	V	R	N	O	K	A	T	E	D	P
Ⓔ	A	L	G	H	I	O	D	I	H	G	F	T	S	S
T	Ⓤ	I	E	N	L	K	L	Y	N	S	O	Y	A	A
I	R	Ⓛ	B	H	A	E	C	O	A	T	O	O	K	R
R	I	V	Ⓑ	M	N	D	R	E	T	D	N	U	O	S
W	E	U	O	O	U	T	K	E	N	A	R	O	N	U
G	H	A	E	C	S	L	N	I	R	O	Z	B	O	L
N	S	M	O	M	A	H	O	P	N	Z	K	A	M	T
O	O	L	R	I	A	L	O	C	E	S	T	S	I	R
S	D	A	E	M	A	S	Y	M	B	R	A	S	S	Y

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/5

Adkins, Angelo, Armstrong, Bass, Blue, Bond, Brassy, Cold, Columbia, Cords, Daydreamer, Dolan, Etta, Heart, Hello, James, Kimmel, Konecki, Laurie, London, Lovesong, Mezzo, My Same, Nineteen, Penny, Raspy, Relationship, Roots, Shoulder, Simon, Skyfall, Someone Like You, Songwriter, Soprano, Sound, Sultry, Tottenham, Twenty One, Vocal

Yesterday's Answer: Molecular

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Pat on the back

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

When: Saturday, February 6 from 8 am – 12 noon
Where: Beach Road (Parking lot next to MVA)
Multi-families Garage Sale, Cash only!

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED

NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan. Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.

NOW LEASING
Starting @ $599/mo.

OPEN HOUSE
MONDAY - FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

EMPLOYMENT

Director of Sales & Marketing. Minimum of ten (10) years Resort' Sales & Marketing management experience required. Minimum of three (3) years Executive position experience. Responsible for planning, developing and implementing Sales & Marketing strategies for all Market segments, including Russian market. Fluent English and Russian. Knowledge of CNMI Travel industry and Russian market required. E-mail resume to info@mangoresort.com. Contact Elly at (670) 989-3325 for more information.

---

(1) Building & Ground Maintenance Repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau Estates at 483-9351.

---

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Knowledgeable of principles and methods of Embroidery. Multi tasking. Can work on longer hours. Good eyesight.Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com.

2-H.E. Operator $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-9796. Kimco Ent. Inc.

4-Electrician $6.05 - $7.00/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

2-Plumber $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

3-Carpenters $6.05 - $6.50/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

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- (10) Plumbers
- (04) Heavy Equipment Operators
- (10) Building Maintenance Repairers
- (03) AC Technicians
- (10) Domestic Workers
- (06) Commercial Cleaners
- (02) Landscapers

Two years experience required and must be certified Police Clearance Required

Local applicants are encouraged to apply – Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa.
Email: misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

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looking to buy functional used guns, good conditions and registered; mini-14, 22 caliber, 41OS.
Please call 483-5155

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 234-6184/235-1201, Fax No. (670) 235-4751, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

Mount Carmel School, a private Catholic elementary and secondary school, is accepting applications for the following positions:

Position	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date
Elementary Classroom Teacher (2 positions)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education or related field.	February 14, 2016
Japanese Language Teacher (For Elementary, Middle and High School)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Japanese language or related field.	
STEM Teacher (Computer / Digital Arts & Mathematics)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in computer science or related field.	February 24, 2016
STEM Teacher (High School Science & Advanced Placement Science Courses)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in science or related field.	
Vice-Principal for Curriculum & Instruction	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in education or related field.	

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and employment application forms at the Mount Carmel School Business Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Required documents needed to complete an application package are: copy of degree, transcript, resume, police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months), and FBI Clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made). Complete application packages may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, Attn: Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, President. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Celebrating 64 Years of Faith, Excellence and Success.

Fully Accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(8) COOK
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than February 10, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. box 520059, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel.: (670) 433-2200 • Fax: (670) 433-1819/6082
tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 991(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 08, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   A. November 9, 2015

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IV. NEW BUSINESS
1. To review Tinian Municipal Scholarship Applicants for Spring 2016

V. MISCELLANEOUS MAATER
VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHNEIDER
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Delivery Driver (5)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: February 5, 2016

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. +1 (670) 233-1857
Facsimile: +1 (670) 233-1856
E-mail: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: January 22, 2016 **Closing Date: February 5, 2016**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") announces the following Job Vacancy for immediate recruitment:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT#
1.	MANAGER	Audit Division	$65,000 - $75,000	CCC-16-A
2.	AUDITOR – Financial	Audit Division	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-16-B
3.	ACCOUNTANT	Administration Division	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-16-C
4.	NAS/CMS ADMINISTRATOR	Executive Office	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-16-D
5.	SPECIAL AGENT	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-16-E
6.	ENFORCEMENT AGENT I	Enforcement & Investigations	$23,000 - $28,000	CCC-16-F
7.	INSPECTOR I	Administration Division	$25,000 - $30,000	CCC-16-G
8.	PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK (2 positions)	Administration Division	$13,000 - $18,000	CCC-16-H

a) **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, & other related qualifications.
b) **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
c) **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
d) **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service System per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24

Requirements:
A. CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. **Resume** with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. **Police Clearance** (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of Valid Identification

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations on some positions.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the POSITION DESCRIPTIONS and Requirements, please contact Ms. Velma Apatang Lore at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, Unit 13 & 14, Springs Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Mariana Entertainment LLC

For immediate hiring
FULL OR PART-TIME POSITION

SLOT ATTENDANT
- Will Train.
- Responsible to proactively seek interaction with slot customer for purpose of building positive business relationships.
- Trouble shoot and assist guest with their slot machines issues and perform minor gaming machine malfunctions
- Reporting any machine operational or technical issues to appropriate technical support personal.
- Ability to accurately explain various game combinations payouts and jackpots

QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Diploma or equivalent, with 12 months of previous successful work-related experience with Guest Services. Must be able to work various shifts, including evenings, weekends and holidays. Good command of verbal and written English, second language preferred; Chinese, Korean or Japanese.

BOOKKEEPER
- General office clerk needed. Light bookkeeping. Able to do general office work to assist manager and be familiar with QuickBooks. Responsible for daily, weekly and monthly sales reports. Report to accountant in preparation of various federal and government tax returns. Record daily account activities, maintain book of accounts.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Must be proficient in MS word, excel, QuickBooks system software. Knowledge in general accounting. Can manage and monitor receivables and payables. Must have a minimum of 12 months of previous successful work-related experience in accounting. College graduate or equivalent preferred. Good Command of verbal and written English. Must have own transportation.

Closing Date Monday, February 15, 2016.
Marina Heights Business Plaza Suite 203
Please email your resume to club88mholl@gmail.com or call 670-233-0888
Only Qualified U.S. applicant need apply.

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports*, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Durant's buzzer-beater lifts Thunder over Magic

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—With the ball in Kevin Durant's hands in the final seconds, Oklahoma City coach Billy Donovan didn't call a timeout. Instead, he let one of his superstars do his thing.

Durant made that decision pay off. He hit a 3-pointer with just a half-second on the clock to give the Thunder a wild 117-114 win over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

Durant's buzzer-beater capped his 37-point outing for Oklahoma City, which has won five straight and 12 of its last 13. Durant extended his streak of games with 20 or more points to 36, the longest run in the NBA.

Oklahoma City's other superstar, Russell Westbrook, posted his third straight triple-double with 24 points, a career-high 19 rebounds and 14 assists. He has eight triple-doubles this season, five coming in the last 11 games. It was the 27th triple-double of his career, moving him into a tie with Rajon Rondo for second place among active players, behind only LeBron James with 39.

"When you have the two players (Donovan) has, you don't need a timeout," Orlando coach Scott Skiles said. "Just give them the ball and get out of the way."

Victor Oladipo scored 37 points—just one off his career high—to lead Orlando, which has lost 14 of its last 16 games. The Magic have dropped nine of their last 10against Oklahoma City, including a double-overtime thriller in Orlando on Oct. 30, in which they blew an 18-point fourth-quarter lead.

Orlando led into the final minute on Wednesday before Westbrook tied the game at 114 with a driving layup with 29.4 seconds left. Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka then blocked a layup attempt by Oladipo and Dion Waiters grabbed the rebound for the Thunder.

"There it is," Skiles said. "We drove to the basket and they blocked it. Westbrook drove to the basket and laid the ball in."

Waiters quickly passed the basketball to Durant, who stopped about 28 feet from the basket and knocked down the 3-pointer to put Oklahoma City ahead, saying he "just felt comfortable with the shot when I let it go."

After a timeout, Oladipo missed a well-guarded 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

Durant deflected attention to Ibaka and Westbrook, saying they also made winning plays.

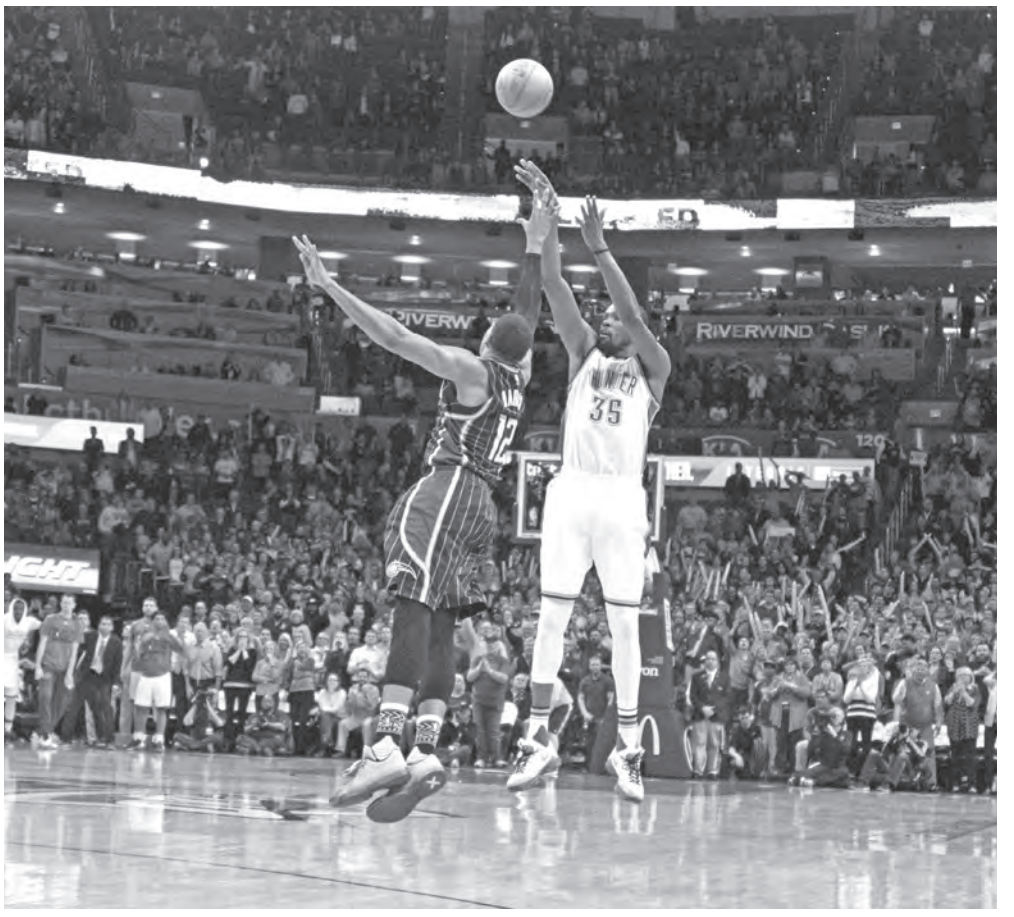
Ibaka "set (Oladipo) up for that block," Durant said. "That was a huge play. Russell made a huge play right before that, grabbing that rebound and calling timeout, and then also making a layup. That set me up for the shot at the end. There's much more than just me making that shot."

Ibaka finished with six blocks to go with nine points and seven rebounds for Oklahoma City, while Enes Kanter had 13 points. Hezonja and Nikola Vucevic each scored 16 points for Orlando, while Tobias Harris added 15 and Smith, 13.

Westbrook's 19 rebounds weren't only his career high, but the most by a point guard since Jason Kidd had 19 on Nov. 16, 2007, also against Orlando, according to STATS LLC. The last player with a primary career position of point guard to record 20 or more rebounds in a game was Fat Lever, who had 22 on April 20, 1990, against San Antonio.

Westbrook said there's no particular secret to his rebounding.

"I go get the ball, man," he said. "I don't have a method. I just try to work harder than the next guy and go out and compete at a high level every night. That's it."



AP

Orlando Magic forward Tobias Harris (12) is unable to block Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) as he shoots the winning three point shot during the second half of a NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016. The Thunder won, 117-114.

Jazz 85, Nuggets 81

In Salt Lake City, Derrick Favors had 16 points, 10 rebounds and six blocked shots to power the Utah Jazz over the Denver Nuggets 85-81 Wednesday night, extending their season-best winning streak to four games.

Favors missed 16 games with back problems and the Jazz have been a different defensive team since his return five games ago. Utah, which also got 16 points from Gordon Hayward, has won five straight against the Nuggets.

Favors, whose jump shot was off target much of the night, made a baseline jumper with 1:28 to play and then corralled a crucial offensive rebound and was fouled with 56 seconds remaining. He made one of two free throws to give the Jazz an 82-77 lead, their largest of the game.

Danilo Gallinari, who scored 24 points, hit two free throws and Kenneth Faried made a follow shot sandwiched around a free throw by Rudy Gobert, but the Nuggets couldn't gain possession of a loose ball with 7 seconds left for a possible game-winner. The ball was first given to Denver, but the call was reversed on replay.

Hayward, who had 14 points in the second half, made two free throws to clinch it.

The Nuggets, who went 4 for 17 from the field in the final period, have lost six of nine. Faried scored 14 points, Gary Harris had 11 and Will Barton 10 for Denver.

Warriors 134, Wizards 121

In Washington, Stephen Curry scored 51 points, tying his career high with 11 3-pointers and leading the Golden State Warriors over the Washington Wizards 134-121 Wednesday night for their eighth straight win.

Curry made 13 of his first 14 shots and had 36 points by halftime.

The defending champion Warriors (45-4) tied the 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers for the best 49-game start in NBA history.

John Wall led the Wizards with a season-high 41 points and 10 assists.

Spurs 110, Pelicans 97

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 36 points and San Antonio improved to 27-0 at home this season by beating New Orleans.

The Spurs have won 36 in a row at home overall, dating to last season.

Anthony Davis had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans.

Hornets 106, Cavaliers 97

In Charlotte, Jeremy Lin scored 24 points and Charlotte ended Cleveland's five-game winning streak.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 11 points and 13 rebounds for the Hornets, who overcame a nine-point halftime deficit.

Kyrie Irving had 26 points and LeBron James added 23 for the Cavaliers.

Heat 93, Mavericks 90

In Dallas, Chris Bosh scored 20 points, Dwyane Wade bounced back with 18 after matching the worst shooting half of his career and Miami beat Dallas.

The Heat improved to 9-1 against the Mavericks with their fourth sweep in five seasons since losing to Dallas in the 2011 NBA Finals.

Wade scored 16 points in the second half after going 1 of 11 before halftime, his first points coming with just 48 seconds left in the second quarter.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 for Dallas.

Celtics 102, Pistons 95

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas had 17 points and seven assists to help Boston beat Detroit.

Avery Bradley had 15 points for the Celtics, who have won six straight home games and seven of eight overall.

Pistons guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope left with a strained right groin in the second quarter after he appeared to slip on a wet spot on the court. He didn't play in the second half.

Pacers 114, Nets 100

In New York, C.J. Miles had 27 points, Paul George scored 17 and Indiana sent Brooklyn to its fifth straight loss.

Brook Lopez had 21 points and Joe Johnson had 20 points and nine assists for the Nets.

Hawks 124, Sixers 86

In Philadelphia, Tim Hardaway Jr. and Mike Scott each had 13 points and Atlanta coasted past Philadelphia.

All 13 of the Hawks players scored.

Nik Stauskas had 17 points for the 76ers, who dropped to 7-42.

Cespedes says staying with Mets always was his preference

NEW YORK (AP)—Yoenis Cespedes says he chose happiness over more dollars.

Of course, the lower offer was a $75 million, three-year contract that kept him with the New York Mets.

"It's not always about the amount of money being offered," he said through a translator Wednesday in his first public comments about his Jan. 22 decision. "It's about wanting to be in a place you want to play in, that you're happy in. And as you can see, this is just what happened in that case."

Still, the slugging outfielder has the right to terminate his contract after one season and $27.5 million, then become a free agent once again.

Acquired from Detroit on July 31, Cespedes had 17 homers and 44 RBI for the Mets, helping the team reach its first World Series since 2000. Fans at Citi Field likely expect him to keep up that pace.

"From my first day when I came last season after the trade, that very first day ... the fans showed incredible support, my teammates were so welcoming, as well as the full Mets organization," the 30-year-old Cespedes said. "And I think that was what encouraged me to make the decision to come back."

New York treated Cespedes as a newly signed player, showing video highlights of his performance last season after he entered the news conference.

Chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and general manager Sandy Alderson presented Cespedes with his No. 52 jersey, which fit snugly over his street clothes. The Mets gave him his own hashtag: "GotYoBack."

Since starting his big league career in 2012, the Cuban star played for Oakland, Boston and Detroit before landing with the Mets.

Washington was among the clubs that pursued Cespedes and was said to have offered a $110 million, five-year deal that included deferred money.

"There were several teams that wanted to give me five years," Cespedes said.

New York, shaken by underperforming players with large salaries in the 2000s, refused to consider a contract of that length.

"I don't think it had specifically to do with Yoenis," Alderson said. "I think it had as much to do with just the history of long-term deals, both generally throughout baseball as well as in recent years with the Mets."

Cespedes was driving on his Florida farm when his agent told him the deal with the Mets had been agreed to.

"It was a big relief for me," he said.

Cespedes is expected to see time in center field as well as left, relegating Juan Lagares to mostly a platoon and late-game defensive role. With Cespedes' return, Alderson said Michael Conforto could be used in right field during spring training.

Playing time could be limited for outfielder Alejandro De Aza, signed as a free agent. While the Mets haven't pursued a possible trade, Alderson said interest from other teams during spring training was conceivable.

"We're happy to have another left-handed hitter that hits well against right-handed pitching, and we'll figure it out," Alderson said.

Everton beats Newcastle after 2 penalties from Barkley

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—Ross Barkley marked his 100th appearance in the English Premier League by converting two late penalties to complete Everton's 3-0 win over relegation-threatened Newcastle on Wednesday.

Aaron Lennon put Everton ahead in the 23rd minute, swiveling just inside the area after collecting Tom Cleverley's pass and placing a low shot inside the post.

The hosts peppered Newcastle's goal, hitting the goal frame three times through Barkley, Cleverley and when Jonjo Shelvey headed against his own bar.

Barkley secured a first victory since Dec. 26 for Everton from the penalty spot in the 88th after Lennon was fouled. The England midfielder converted another spot kick in injury time, dinking the ball down the middle after he was tripped by Jamaal Lascelles, who was sent off for the foul.

"100 games in the league at 22 is not easy to achieve and he is playing a big role in the team," Everton manager Roberto Martinez said of Barkley. "Phenomenal footballer, phenomenal person. He took responsibility with both penalties and showed how he is an assured, technical footballer."

Everton climbed to 11th place.

Newcastle, who spent $42 million in the winter transfer window in a bid to escape relegation, stayed third from bottom and has picked up just five points from the last eight games.

"It wasn't acceptable," said Newcastle coach Steve McClaren.

AP

Everton's Ross Barkley, right, jumps for the ball against Newcastle's Henri Saivet during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Newcastle at Goodison Park Stadium, Liverpool, England, Wednesday Feb. 3, 2016.

Chelsea 0, Watford 0

In Watford, Chelsea failed to turn sustained late pressure into a goal in a 0-0 draw at Watford in the English Premier League on Wednesday.

Eden Hazard's introduction from the bench in the 73rd minute sparked the champions into life after they started sluggishly at Vicarage Road, but Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes produced brilliant saves to deny Branislav Ivanovic and Diego Costa.

"We got a point today against a very good side," Gomes said, "and I was glad to make a difference."

Chelsea didn't have a shot on target until the 60th, with Watford creating the better openings early on for Odion Ighalo and Etienne Capoue.

Chelsea hasn't lost in nine games under new coach Guus Hiddink, but is in 13th place in a dismal defense of its title, 11 points adrift of the European positions.

It was a frustrating game for Costa, who was booked in the first half after getting involved in a petty exchange with Juan Carlos Paredes. The Watford defender also received a yellow card.

"He likes to go physical but he must do within the rules," Hiddink said of Costa. "Sometimes players get physical and he has to get used to that."

Meanwhile, Radamel Falcao has been omitted from Chelsea's Champions League squad for the knockout stage, continuing the Colombia striker's miserable spell at the English Premier League club.

New signing Alexandre Pato was included, however.

Falcao has not played since October because of a thigh injury, and has scored just once so far in his season-long loan at Chelsea.

Chelsea plays Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16.

Fearing strike, US Soccer Federation sues women's national team union

CHICAGO (AP)—The U.S. Soccer Federation sued the union of its world championship women's soccer team on Wednesday, saying it fears players may attempt to strike ahead of this year's Olympics.

In a complaint filed in federal court in Chicago, the USSF said Richard Nichols, who became executive director of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team Players Association in late 2014, has refused to acknowledge a Dec. 31 expiration date contained in a memorandum of understanding agreed to by the governing body and the union in March 2013. The memorandum listed changes agreed to from the previous collective bargaining agreement.

The USSF claimed Nichols informed it on Dec. 23 that the deal will end on Feb. 24 and at a meeting Wednesday refused to agree that the union would not strike before Dec. 31. The USSF asked the court to determine the CBA exists and has an expiration of Dec. 31.

"While unfortunate, we believe taking this action provides the parties with the most efficient path to a resolution, in an effort to not jeopardize the team's participation in any competitions this year," the USSF said in a statement.

In a Jan. 6 email attached to the lawsuit, Nichols told the USSF the union's position was that the collective bargaining agreement no longer exists and the 2013 memorandum of understanding could be terminated at any time.

"The world champion women of the National Soccer team are negotiating in good faith to reach agreement on a new CBA that will bring fairness and equity to the sport," Jeffrey Kessler, a labor lawyer representing the players union, said Wednesday night in a statement. "The unfortunate lawsuit by the USSF is a regrettable distraction that will not weaken the resolve of the players or deter them from the bargaining table, where this dispute belongs."

Goalkeeper Hope Solo tweeted: "We players stand together, united in our fight for what is right and fair. (Hash) Equality."

The USSF also fears the union may attempt to start a labor action before the National Women's Soccer League season is scheduled to start this spring.

As part of the March 2013 memorandum of understanding, the USSF guaranteed to keep 24 women's national team players under contract, including 18 with tier one salaries of $72,000. Tier two players are paid $51,000 and tier three players $36,000. The 24 spots include players who are hurt or on maternity leave.

Players received $15,000 for qualifying for last year's World Cup, another $15,000 for making the World Cup roster and $75,000 for winning the tournament. The player pool received $1.8 million for the victory tour that followed the team's World Cup title last year, its third overall and first since 2009.

Identical bonuses are available for the 2016 Olympics, according to the memorandum, which was attached as an exhibit.

The player pool gets $1.20 per ticket sold for USSF promoted home exhibitions, which the federation said is the same as the men's team. The union also received a $425,000 signing bonus as part of the 2013 memorandum.

Bubba Watson on TPC Scottsdale: I don't like it at all

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Bubba Watson took a big swing at TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course—with his mouth, not his driver.

"I don't like it," Watson said Wednesday, a day before the start of the Waste Management Phoenix Open. "I'm not going to PC it. I don't like it at all."

The long-hitting Watson has played well on the course, tying for second the last two seasons.

"Obviously, I'm here because of my sponsors and everything," Watson said. "I love coming here. It's always great weather. Used to have a house here. It's always beautiful coming here and playing here."

He reiterated that he's only playing the tournament out of loyalty to Phoenix-based Karsten Manufacturing, the maker of his Ping equipment, and sponsors Oakley and Stance Socks.

"I just mentioned why I'm here," Watson said. "I've got three beautiful sponsors that love it here."

Tom Weiskopf renovated the course in 2014, updating the layout he teamed with Jay Morrish to design.

"I didn't see any reason to change it," Watson said. "Again, they didn't ask me. It's just my own opinion. I didn't see any reason to change it.

"But then you have 14, I think 490 (yards) uphill. (For) big hitters, it gets tight down there. No. 8, you've got the slope from right to left right in the bunkers, bunkers start at roughly 280, go to about 320. I don't see that you need to tighten it up. So just to me it just seems like all they did is just tightened it up. Scores didn't change. It just makes it goofier and tougher."

The two-time Masters champion does like the par-3 16th, the tournament's signature stadium hole.

"I think the hole is great," Watson said. "It's one time a year. If it was multiple times a year, it wouldn't be fun. But to do what they have done to create what they have created, it's a beautiful thing."

He also praised the condition of the course.

"This is the best shape I have ever seen it," Watson said. "The greens are running so quick right now. You're going to make a lot of putts. That's what I need to do."

Phil Mickelson is playing for the third straight week after taking a long offseason break. The 45-year-old former Arizona State player missed the cut last week at Torrey Pines after tying for third in La Quinta. He won at TPC Scottsdale in 1996, 2005 and 2013.

"I love coming back here," Mickelson said. "It's a special place for me. I lived here for 12 years. The people here have been so nice to me and my family. ... I love competing in this tournament."

Winless in 48 events since the 2013 British Open, he's working with swing coach Andrew Getson after splitting with Butch Harmon in early November.

"It's been a long time since my swing is on plane and it's on plane now," Mickelson said. "It feels really good, feels really easy. ... I just need to be a little bit patient with it, but it's coming."

NFL: No credible threat to Super Bowl 50

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—NFL security leaders and top law enforcement officials say there is "no credible threat" to Super Bowl 50.

Jeffrey Miller, NFL senior vice president of security, planned to walk the perimeter of Levi's Stadium again Wednesday and he estimates it's approximately three to four miles around the facility in Santa Clara where Sunday's Super Bowl will be played between Carolina and Denver.

Miller said he is satisfied with the collaborative effort between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to handle any possible issues, including terrorism of any kind.

"It gives the NFL a great deal of confidence in the safety of our premiere event, our teams and our fans," Miller said at a news conference Wednesday. "I can speak for Commissioner (Roger) Goodell in saying that we are deeply appreciative of the leadership, resources and attention to detail put forth by our public safety partners."

Officials have learned from recent attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California.

"Every year is different. The world situation, the threat picture is different every February," said Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson. "We are, with the NFL, with our federal partners, and state and local law enforcement, focused on layered security, seen and unseen. We learned from events of the past but we have to protect against events of the future. So, we try to anticipate things that can happen from multiple different directions. But we're always informed by recent events and what we see in the world situation."

Johnson said intelligence has picked up no troubling signals so far.

"At this time we know of no credible threat directed at Super Bowl 50," Johnson said.

Miller said drones are banned in the vicinity of the $1.3 billion, 2-year-old Levi's Stadium and there are overall flight restrictions.

"They're prohibited even to possess one in the parking area, for a regular game, then secondly we have a temporary flight restriction in place at all NFL stadiums for all of our games," Miller said. "So, that's an aircraft."

There will be no large-scale public viewing spot in downtown San Francisco, unlike the way the city offered such opportunities for the baseball San Francisco Giants' World Series championship runs in 2010, '12 and '14.

The FBI opened a multi-agency command post last week about six miles from Levi's Stadium that will be continuously staffed through Sunday. Still, authorities are calling on the public to notify officials if they see anything out of the ordinary or suspicious.

"We absolutely need the public's assistance," said David Johnson of the FBI's San Francisco office. "We are confident in the plan and the resources that are in place."

HERAS

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From Albury, Heras traveled to Wodonga in Victoria for the 2016 Victorian Grasscourt Championships and had another finals appearance in the doubles event. She also teamed up with Saipele and incidentally placed second to the Fiji pair. Before losing in the finals in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 5-10, Heras and Saipele managed to pull off an upset against the No. 1 seed tandem of Mercy Jane Eze and Olivia Huang in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-2.

In the singles consolation bracket, the 15-year-old Heras made it to the semifinals. She eliminated Laicy Rogerson in the quarterfinals, 6-4, 6-1, before falling short in the super tiebreaker against the top-ranked Emmy Lappel in the Final Four, 4-6, 7-5, 8-10.

Heras competed in the two tournaments in Land Down Under as part of the elite Pacific Oceania Touring Team. He earned a slot on the squad after her impressive showing in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

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Kaga, Grace Choi and Tania Tan. Heras had a bye in the opening round, while Malika and Conatsu will play against Sakano and Tan, respectively, on Sunday. The lone game in the division this Saturday will have Tsukagoshi battling Choi.

In the boys U16, Moris Villanueva and Colin Ramsey are the Top 2 seeds. Completing the field are Steven Goodwin and A.J. Hudkins, Michael Ren, Tony Kim, Ken Song, Robbie Schoor, and Vincent Tudela. Ren and Song will be paired in the quarterfinals, while other Round of 8 matchups are Kim vs Schorr and Tudela vs Ramsey. Goodwin and Hudkins will meet this Saturday for the right to face Villanueva in the quarterfinals.

Five players from the boys U16 singles will also see action in the men's singles. Schorr, Song, Tudela, Ramsey, and Villanueva are entered in the men's field, joining veteran Bobby Cruz, Fiesta Resort teaching pro Peter Loken, and lone female player Carol Lee.

Meanwhile, as a tradition, this year's Coconut Classic will have the mixed-up doubles. Thirty-one pairs will compete in the unique event with Villanueva and Raulerson getting a bye in the opening round and the rest of the entries playing in the opening day tomorrow.

NMI

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lastic, and adult leagues are competing. Players from this pool are also selected to represent the CNMI in off-island events and the availability of talents allowed the Commonwealth to send the most number of teams (6) in regional competitions last year.

"In 2015, we sent out six national teams, which no other Northern Mariana sport can claim. For kids living on a small island, a chance to travel to Beijing, Thailand, Laos… that's great exposure for the kids. For some it's their first time riding an airplane," Tan added in the interview.

The NMIFA head also made special mention of the CNMI Men's National Team's historic 2-1 win against Macau in 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1 in 2014 in Guam.

All these accomplishments in 10 challenging years were made possible through the help of EAFF, its member countries, AFC, and all its local partners, including the parents, coaches, and volunteers.

"We can't achieve these without getting help from a lot of people and organizations," said Tan, whose next big plan for CNMI football is to build an artificial pitch that would help popularize the sport more in the Commonwealth.

He added that sharing the development of the sport on the island and the steps they are taking to accomplish their goals will generate awareness on CNMI football from their counterparts in the region.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished so far and it's nice to know that people outside the island know who we are and what we are capable of doing. We will continue this journey in growing the sport in the CNMI," Tan said.

TAKE YOUR PICK
BRONCOS OR PANTHERS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's time again for Saipan football fans to make their Super Bowl picks.

Will they go for Denver Broncos that have seasoned veteran Peyton Manning and the formidable defensive trio of DeMarcus Ware, Aqib Talib, and T.J. Ward or for the Carolina Panthers that are bannered by a young and explosive quarterback in Cam Newton and backed up by reliable offensive line and receivers Greg Olsen, Devin Funchess, Ted Ginn Jr., Philly Brown, and Jonathan Stewart?

Let's find out.

"I believe that Carolina is the team to beat this coming Super Bowl but I will be rooting for the underdog Broncos led by Peyton Manning. I would like to see the guy go out in style in what could most likely be his last NFL game."

John Blanco

"I've been cheering for the Denver Broncos' defense all year because they were my 'fantasy football' defense but they are going to have to play above-outstanding to slow down this red-hot Carolina offense. Carolina has a very good defense too and I can't see Denver scoring more than 24 on them. If the Panthers score more than 24, it should be their game. If the Broncos can keep it a low-scoring game, they may have a chance."

Randy Steele

"I'm all for the Panthers. My daughter now lives in Charlotte and watched the playoffs. Plus, Cam Newton is entertaining to watch and my son loves doing the dab and the superman when we play catch in our front yard."

Ed Arriola

"I am for the Broncos because my friends are Broncos fans and they would kill me if I said Panthers. LOL.

Merrisa Rasa

"I'm a Patriots fan. But for this Super Bowl my pick are the Denver Broncos because they beat my team."

Francis Mendiola

"I'll go with the Broncos? I don't really watch football but I guess horses are cool. Haha!"

Salvi Villanueva

"I choose the Panthers because they have been dominating in their games."

Michael Mancao

"I would have to say the Panthers. The Panthers seem to have the fitter and solid team. Plus they got a bonus which is their quarterback Cam Newton."

Melissa Dickinson

"I pick the Broncos, only because I have more friends who live in Colorado and want to support them."

Kanae Quinn

My pick are the Panthers. Why? I just think that this year belongs to Newton and company. It's going to be a high scoring game and Panthers will get this one...30-27."

Carl Hocog

Where to watch Super Bowl 50

On Monday, Saipan will join the rest of the world in watching Super Bowl 50 that features the Denver Broncos of Peyton Manning and the Carolina Panthers of Cam Newton.

If you're thinking of going out to catch the game with your friends or family members in big television screens while enjoying good food and overflowing drinks plus raffle prizes and giveaways, check out the following venues:

Chambre Bar of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan: Entrance fee is $18 per person for breakfast buffet and drinks with doors opening at 8:30am.

PIC's Charley's Cabaret: $25 (adults) and $15 (kids) entrance fees for breakfast buffet. Doors open at 7am.

Club C: No entrance fee, but it is offering $25 for a bucket of beer and a choice of appetizer or meal and $15 for a bucket and appetizer. Doors open at 9:30am.

Red Box of World Resort: $20 entrance fee for breakfast/lunch buffet and doors open at 7:30am.

Tribes Bar: $25 entrance fee for breakfast buffet and drinks. Door opens at 8:30am.

Naked Fish: $25 entrance fee for brunch buffet, beginning at 8am.

VFW Post 3457: $25 entrance fee for buffet and drinks, starting at 9am.

Best Sunshine Live: No entrance fee, but drinks are available at discounted prices.

Durant's buzzer-beater lifts Thunder over Magic

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Sports

Everton beats Newcastle after 2 penalties from Barkley

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Heras earns January top honors

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isabel Heras, seen here in action during last year's Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts, won the TSL Foundation/NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Month (for January) award.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tennis' Isabel Heras won the first NMSA award for 2016 as she was named the Female Student Athlete of the Month for January.

ATHLETES of the MONTH

The Saipan International School student earned the January top honors, sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation, after her notable showing in two tournaments in Australia last month.

Heras played in the consolation bracket of the girls U16 singles event in the 2016 Commercial Club Margaret Court Cup held at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales and topped the field after prevailing against two opponents. She dominated Jovana Jovic in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-4, and then also took only two sets to beat Alison Triggs in the finals, 6-3, 6-1.

In the doubles main draw of the same tournament in Albury, Heras partnered with Samoa's Anasis Saipele and they finished runner-up to Fiji's Vienna Kumar and Ruby Coffin.

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NMI football featured in EAFF website

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan's interview with the East Asian Football Federation is now online and highlighted both the Commonwealth football's birth pains and gains.

Tan disclosed how he asked a group of athletic girls who is into basketball to try futsal and eventually play football. These young girls were approached to replace the aging CNMI women's national pool and just less than a year into the program, the newcomers donned the colors of the Commonwealth in an EAFF tournament. Today, the women's program maintains a stable of young bloods and local talents.

"Our early national teams were mostly American teachers in their 30. They were the backbone of our teams because they've made Saipan their home or worked there for a number of years. But since around four years ago, we've finally started to see younger faces. Today, if you look at our women's team, they are all very young , 15, 16, 17. More girls are playing now; this is part of the growth. We have become the biggest women's team sport on the island by far," Tan was quoted as saying in the interview posted at the EAFF website.

Another challenge to the youngest member of EAFF was enticing to footbal the island that is hooked on American football, baseball, and basketball.

"They're so in love with baseball and American football and basketball. It's hard to have a conversation with the kids and say, 'try this sport' when they don't see it on TV. We still don't have a lot of football on TV, but what we have is the internet. Kids who are interested can watch online, and once they learn about the sport and try it, I know they will be interested in playing," the NMIFA president said.

To address this concern, NMIFA invested on its grassroots program and worked with both the public and private schools to generate interest in the sport.

Today, more than 2,000 players in the youth, interscho-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI youth players listen to the speech of NMIFA president Jerry Tan during a football event at the Oleai Sports Complex last month.

Miyawaki targets back-to-back titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rintaro Miyawaki aims for back-to-back titles as the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic kicks off this weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Miyawaki

Miyawaki, who won his boys U12 singles debut in the same tournament last year after stunning Ji Min Woo in the finals, 6-4, 6-2, will be defending his division crown against seven players. He will start his title defense bid against Jae Hoon Son tomorrow when they collide at 11am .

Also scheduled for tomorrow at 9:30am is the game between Richard Steele and Seung Won Lee with the winner facing the victor of the Miyawaki-Son tiff in the semifinals at the lower half of the bracket.

At the top half of the bracket, the two pairings are Daniel Kang against Anthony Gregoire and Min Jin Cho versus Chris Yu and both matches will be played this Sunday.

Besides the boys U12 singles contest, six other events will be played in the annual tournament.

In the girls U14 singles, seven will fight for the division crown. The list includes Asia Raulerson, who got a bye in the opening round, Riko Ojima, Coume Kaga, Rei Sekiguchi, Erika Tuttle, Maaya Sato, and Maria Gregoire. Ojima and Kaga will square off tomorrow at 9:30am, while the two other preliminary games featuring the showdowns of Gregoire-Sato and Sekiguchi-Tuttle are scheduled for Sunday at 12:30pm.

In the boys U14 singles, there will be a pair of games in the upper half of the draw this Saturday with Woo meeting Jeffrey Seo and Sean Lee challenging Eugene Park. At the lower half, Go Sekiguchi will duel Allan Lee this Sunday at 9:30am, while Sam Ryu and Seung Jin Paik will collide in the 11am tiff.

In the U16 division, Isabel Heras leads the girls field and will be joined by Malika Miyawaki, Mimi Sakano, Ami Tsukagoshi, Conatsu

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